



TODAY THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

NEXT WEEK

TOMORROW

CARLING PREMIERSHIP THE BIG KICK-OFF PAGE 36

EXCLUSIVE TERRY VENABLES The lessons from Euro 96

BREAKFAST BATTLEFIELD The great corn flake test, PAGE 5

NEW MUSICAL JOURNEY Sean O'Hagan meets an invigorated Neneh Cherry

Clinton accused over Irish policy

US links with Britain 'worst since 1773'

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN SAN DIEGO, PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WATT

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S support for Gerry Adams has left Anglo-American relations in their worst state since the war of independence...



Baker speaking at the San Diego convention

Mr Clinton had also squandered American supremacy since the cold war, leaving other countries with the impression that he was weak and that his word was meaningless...

of 'cynically trying to exploit the conflict in Ireland for party political advantage in the US presidential campaign'.

On Ireland, Mr Baker said: 'We have seen a representative of the IRA hosted in the White House just prior to its resumption of terrorist bombings in London. The result has been the worst relationship with our closest ally, Britain, since the Boston Tea Party in 1773.'

While allowing for their electrifying tone, many British ministers would be surprised by Mr Baker's remarks and his conclusion that relations were at such a low...

His attack infuriated the Clinton Administration and Sinn Fein, surprised British ministers who believe that the relationship between the two governments has improved of late...

Mr Clinton made a triumphant visit to Northern Ireland last autumn, when he was given a hero's welcome by Catholics and Protestants alike...

However, David Wilshire, vice-chairman of the Conser-

vative backbench Northern Ireland committee, welcomed Mr Baker's intervention, saying: 'Hallelujah! At long last a note of realism in America. At last someone is putting people's lives above grubbing for votes. I applaud him for it. He is absolutely right.'

Mr Baker's remarks were also welcomed by Unionists, who were highly critical of Mr Clinton's determination to reward Mr Adams politically for the IRA ceasefire and whose fears were fuelled by an IRA briefing paper in 1994 describing Mr Clinton as the first president in decades to be influenced by the Irish American lobby.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionists' security spokesman, said Americans had made the mistake of believing that the ceasefire was permanent. 'It has given the IRA a breathing space - and it wasn't only the Americans who were to blame in falling into the trap, Mr Baker is right in what he says about the long-term effects of inviting Adams to the White House. The Americans' involvement will prove to have been most unhelpful.'

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, said: 'Mr Baker is prepared to say what many Americans - and many people in the United Kingdom - think about President Clinton. His approach to terrorism is inconsistent, he wants to be tough against terrorism internationally, yet he is blind to the role of the Provisional IRA and Sinn Fein. If he wants to be consistent, he should ostracise Gerry Adams and make sure that the IRA has the same standing as the Oklahoma bombers.'

But Joe Hendron, SDLP MP for West Belfast, praised Mr Clinton for devoting so much energy to Northern Ireland. 'The Republicans are playing politics. They have to do that because they have their work cut out in trying to get Bob Dole elected.'

Convention reports, page 11



Alan Turner, right, a fan of Margaret Thatcher, and a friend on the beach at Benidorm with Glenda Jackson

Nuevo Labour fights on the Costa beaches

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN BENIDORM

A TOUCH overdressed for a Benidorm beach in high season, Glenda Jackson MP picked her way unsteadily through a labyrinth of gleaming bodies, bare breasts and astonished expressions. The much-vaunted Labour campaign had begun.

'Enough of Tory lies,' she intoned, in a voice half-way between Queen Elizabeth I and Hedda Gabler. 'Vote Labour. We'll get Britain back together again.'

'A "Whoah" - or words to that effect - erupted from a group of short-haired, over-toasted men. 'It's Glenda, lads,' one said. 'You know, the actress like.'

'Vote Labour,' Ms Jackson said to them, wisely keeping her distance. She should really have kept her counsel. 'Naah,' said the one the others called Jimbo. 'We like

the Tories here.' Undeterred, she marched on through the hot sand in her high heels. 'Enough of Tory lies, eh?' she said to an elderly woman. 'Don't you think it's time for Labour?' Betty Beardman, a grandmother on holiday, nodded gamely in approval. Ms

Jackson's eyes lit up at the sight of this quarry. 'A crime, the health service, the education system - the Tories have left our country in a mess.'

Her quarry nodded again, wide-eyed in the presence of the film star. The Mediterranean whooshed gently and a game of beach tennis clattered noisily nearby. A stick of rock was produced with the words 'Tory lies' engraved along the side. It was thrust into the hands of the grandmother on holiday. 'You take care of yourself, now,' said Ms Jackson, moving on.

A large crowd had now assembled: Spaniards, Dutchmen, French boys in search of action, large inquisitive Germans, and a few curious lifeguards. Someone tugged at my sleeve. 'That's Glenda Jackson, isn't it?' said a middle-aged man in Spanish. 'I told him he was right, and he turned ecstatically to yank his

wife in our direction. 'Look, Glenda Jackson!' The señora was unimpressed. 'OK, so she was nicer when she was younger, you know. We all age. Even you will.' The señora was even less impressed.

The procession moved on, gathering new gawkers with every step. Next stop, a perfect lager drinker from central casting, the hair on his head no longer than the stubble on

John Prescott's chin. On his right shoulder, a loving product of some backstreet calligrapher, was the word Tracy. 'The wife', he explained. Over his left nipple, for good measure, was inscribed the word Simon. 'My older lad.'

Alan Turner, 35, from Stockport, told Ms Jackson: 'I always voted Tory, and if

Continued on page 2, col 1

Leading article, page 17



'If you bump into her, pretend to be French'

Princess wins bar on photographer

The Princess of Wales obtained an emergency court order last night against Martin Stenning, a freelance photographer.

Mr Stenning, who is often at the gates of Kensington Palace, is restrained from approaching within 300 metres of the Princess or communicating with her.

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Boys take command in the A-level battle of the sexes

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

BOYS asserted their dominance at A level yesterday. Five took six grade A passes and boys' schools took most of the top places in the first results table.

In recent years, however, girls have been achieving record scores at GCSE and closing the gap at A level. King Edward VI Grammar School, in Chelmsford, Essex, topped a provisional table of state sector results. The 111 boys averaged almost two As and one B grade, far exceeding the best performance by a state school last year. Tony Tuckwell, the head teacher, said: 'These youngsters worked very hard, in spite of the Jeremiahs who claimed the exams are easier this year.'

Matthew Weston headed to the beach after finding out about his six grade As, not to celebrate but to spend the day serving at Sherry's Baked

Potato Stall on Skegness seafront. He took additional mathematics as well as further mathematics, mathematics, chemistry, general studies and physics at Skegness Grammar School.

Tristan Barback, 17, from Aylesbury Grammar School in Buckinghamshire, achieved



Matthew Weston: serves at a baked potato stall

his six passes in three mathematics papers, physics, economics and general studies. Ben Chan, also 17, of The Blue Coat School in Liverpool, received five As yesterday in chemistry, economics, general studies, further maths and pure maths, adding to his A in mathematics last year.

Jeremy Rabone's A-grade success was boosted by eight classes where he studied for his sixth A level because he could not fit it into the timetable at Wirral Grammar School in Merseyside. He will read chemistry at Worcester College, Oxford. Jeremy Brookman needed only two grade Es to get to Oxford, but scored half a dozen As: in maths, further maths, chemistry, physics, computing and general studies at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, in Birmingham.

Rejoicing students, page 4

Police act to block porn on Internet

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD has launched a drive to clean up the Internet and has told companies which provide access to block hard-porn sites or face prosecution.

A senior officer from the Yard's clubs and vice unit has written to 140 companies, giving them a long list of such sites. The action, supported by the Home Office and the Department of Trade, follows a seminar this month involving 35 'service provider' companies. At the meeting, police showed copies of material taken from the Internet and urged the industry to adopt self-regulation.

Many of the 133 sites listed involve paedophilia, and police say that pictures on the sites can be easily copied. No service provider has ever been prosecuted for the material shown on the Internet, but the Yard is confident that it could mount a case. Senior officers argue that transmis-

sion of obscene material is a breach of the obscenity laws, potentially placing the companies in the same position as distributors of pornographic magazines and videos.

Yesterday Chief Inspector Stephen French, who signed the letter, said this was the first time such action had been taken. There have been investigations and prosecutions against paedophiles in a number of countries, but Internet firms have not previously been involved.

Mr French said the danger was that the newsgroups could be read by anyone with access to the Internet and this could include children. Sally Weatherall, legal adviser to Internet Service Providers' Association, which has 60 members, said some companies had already blocked offending sites. Members had begun the talks with the police to find a way to regulate the material.

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'Portillo had already congratulated me on buying party headquarters'

'Burgergate' Tories reneged on deal, says businessman

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND JAMES LANDALE

A BUSINESSMAN yesterday claimed that Tories in the Enfield Southgate constituency of Michael Portillo had reneged on an earlier deal to sell him the party headquarters instead of McDonald's.

William Sibley, managing director of Response 2000, said the Defence Secretary had even congratulated him on his proposals. He thought he had agreed terms to buy Century House for £225,000 only to find that the Conservative Association had approached the burger chain, which offered £325,000. Contracts have been exchanged.

Response 2000 would have given the Tories rent free use of a lower ground floor of the Edwardian building for a further five years. Mr Sibley is sending a formal protest to the association as Tory activists vowed last night to resign if the McDonald's deal went ahead.

Mr Sibley was so convinced a deal had been agreed he wrote to Mr Portillo. The MP, who has no authority over his association, sent a congratulatory reply on December 19. Mr Sibley said: "I do not attach



Portillo: declined to comment on deal

any blame to Michael Portillo. He is an honourable man. This was all handled by his association, whose actions have been disappointing."

Mr Portillo has made clear that his letter was a polite response to Mr Sibley. He denied he knew any details of the offer. At a public meeting earlier this week Mr Portillo defended the right of the association to maximise its profit.

Mr Portillo, who is in charge of the Tory attacks on Labour this summer, declined

to make any comment yesterday. "He does not want to be asked about Big Macs," said one Tory official.

The association has been subjected to fierce criticism over the disclosure that it is planning a donation of up to £100,000 from the McDonald's chain to Conservative Central Office.

The association stated: "All dealings with McDonald's have been with the association. There have been no contacts between McDonald's and Michael Portillo on the sale of Century House. McDonald's offered us what they thought the site was worth. Naturally we did not tell them what other bids we had. No political contribution, overt or covert, was involved."

Several officers of the association believe that Mr Portillo was badly advised to attend the public meeting where he was jeered by sections of the 400-strong audience.

The Defence Secretary insisted at the meeting that he could not take sides because it would risk putting him into conflict with the Environment Secretary who could be called to adjudicate if, as expected, the planning application goes to appeal. One association



William Sibley, who claims his offer of £225,000 was rejected by the association

officer said: "Michael could not deliver anything positive to an audience which was always going to be hostile so he should not have gone. He was badly advised once more. His attendance thrust the issue into the national spotlight."

Mr Portillo is a close friend of Geoffrey Tucker, a political consultant employed by McDonald's, but the company stressed that Mr Tucker had

not been involved. Lady Thatcher's former press secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham, is a non-executive director, and Mike Love, McDonald's director of communications, was Lady Thatcher's constituency agent.

McDonald's stated: "It is outrageous to suggest that this proposed acquisition is anything but a straightforward property transaction. McDonald's states categorically that

the price offered for the site was based on market value alone and is in no way connected with the business of the vendor."

But there was a growing backlash in the north London suburb. Reg Bird, 37, threatened to resign from the party. "I won't be the only one," he said. "There will be crowds of them."

Michael Gove, page 16

Nuevo Labour on Costa

Continued from page 1

Maggie were back she'd really sort Britain out. But you're lovely, I think, and I hope you get a tan soon."

Mr Turner had got straight to the point. Ms Jackson's alabaster skin was beginning to stand out, as was her full-sleeved red jacket, her ankle-length black trousers and her Hampstead voice.

"She's so well-spoken," gushed Diane Loughran, from Birkenhead. "Posh, perhaps?" I inquired, fishing for a bit of working-class backlash. "No, not posh," insisted Mrs Loughran. "Just well-spoken. And she was born in Birkenhead too, you know, in the

street just next to mine."

What had she said to Ms Jackson, I asked. "Oh, I told her that my husband Ian fits double-glazed windows, and that he'd do 'em for her if she ever needed any."

Before arriving at the crowded beach, Ms Jackson had posed for photographs in front of a Labour Party poster on the Alicante-Benidorm road. "No wonder you need a break," the poster said, "same Tories, same old lies."

Nestling under a poster of the film *Poahontas*, the Labour message is designed to confront all British holiday-makers driving to and from the airport. Was she not

spoiling everyone's holiday with this political hard-sell, I asked.

"No," Ms Jackson retorted. "The only political message that spoils someone's holiday is the one that comes dressed in blue."

Although this was not her first visit this is not the Spain that she has experienced before. She spent exactly 35 minutes on Benidorm beach before returning to Alicante to catch her flight home. On the sands she had heeded sur-seekers on the health service, education and the fight against crime. It was a stunt, of course, but one that seems to have worked.

Thatcher attack on Germans sparks row with minister

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

BARONESS THATCHER maintained a determined silence yesterday over remarks about the Germans that had provoked a "frightful row" between herself and Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister.

Mr Soames, grandson of Sir Winston Churchill, has said that he became embroiled in an argument with Lady Thatcher as she was "banging on" about the Germans at a private lunch engagement. Mr Soames told *The Times* that

he had gone to the defence of the Germans "who are our allies and our close, close friends". But when pressed he declined to give more details about the conversation.

Last night Lady Thatcher's office stayed silent. "Lady Thatcher would never comment on what was said in a private conversation," an aide said. However, it was the latest incident to expose Lady Thatcher's deep and continuing suspicions of the Germans. At a literary lunch last year she spoke of her fear of a German-dominated Europe

and said that Britons had not fought in the Second World War for the "diminution of democracy in Europe under the domination of Germany or the diminution of our rule of law."

While Mr Soames did not elaborate on their argument, he did say: "Lady Thatcher and many within this country deeply resent the Germans... I regard the Europhobes' views as being damaging to the interests of our country, to the interests of our party and in every way to the interests of our nation."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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* Unfortunately, the grass is too high at this time of year for us to photograph baby Mbolifue. This picture of a white rhino comes from our archive.

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Truth about abortion mother increases pressure for change

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT, AND CAROL MIDGLEY

PRESSURE grew yesterday for a change in the law to halt a sharp rise in selective abortions, amid fears that technology is being used to create "designer families".

Anti-abortion MPs seized on the disclosure that a woman at the centre of a national controversy, who had a healthy twin foetus terminated at 16 weeks, was the working wife of a company director rather than a struggling single mother.

Official figures detailing selective abortions suggest that the reduction of healthy twins may be a more common operation than previously thought. Obstetricians have insisted that the procedure is usually restricted to big multiple pregnancies caused by fertility treatment.

Although the statistics fail to state how many foetuses were in the womb before pregnancy was reduced, 66 per cent of the operations involved the termi-

nation of one foetus. A further 27 per cent aborted two, and 7 per cent a larger number.

The number of selective abortions more than doubled in a year to 73 in 1994, according to the Office for National Statistics. There had been only 32 in 1993 and 37 in 1992. Of the 73 most recent terminations, 58 were performed to avoid the risk of injury to the woman's physical or mental health, the usual legal grounds for most of the 162,000 annual terminations in England and Wales.

The surge in numbers could be linked to an increase in fertility treatment, a common cause of multiple pregnancies. There have also been major improvements in ultrasound technology, allowing doctors to terminate one foetus more accurately. The same machinery can detect heart defects in utero sooner.

Four out of 10 British

women have abortions at some time in their lives, Elizabeth Peacock, Conservative MP for Batley and Spennings, told BBC Radio 4's *Today* that Parliament should review the law when it resumes in the autumn.

She said: "The 1967 Abortion Act was not meant to allow people to have designer families. It also appears that the Abortion Act is almost being used as a form of afterthought contraception."

Phillip Bennett, of Queen Charlotte's in west London, was forced onto the defensive yesterday when a newspaper tracked down his patient. "Miss B" was originally described as single and in strained circumstances. He said details were altered to protect patient confidentiality.

Reporters from the *Daily Express* this week discovered that she is in fact a married career woman, about to take

maternity leave from her well-paid job who describes herself as "certainly not impoverished - far from it."

Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust spent an estimated £1,000 on Tuesday taking out an emergency injunction preventing the media from identifying her. Professor Bennett said yesterday: "The decision to agree to the very unusual request to terminate one of a pair of twins was made, as is required by law, by two senior obstetricians. Both agreed after consultation with the patient that reduction to a single baby was necessary to prevent serious harm to her psychological health."

David Paitin, chairman of the Birth Control Trust, said: "A woman can be in a well-paid job, have lots of money and support from her partner, but feel very strongly that having two children is not what she wants."

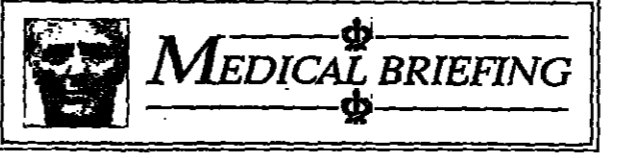
Has Greek god's oath been forsaken?

THE lay public visualise doctors swearing the Hippocratic oath in the same way that a witness takes the oath in the courtroom. It is unlikely that Professor Phillip Bennett has actually sworn the Hippocratic oath because most doctors no longer have to swear before Apollo, Aesculapius, Hygieia, Panacea and "all other gods and goddesses" to practise medicine under constraints placed on them by Hippocrates in 420 BC.

The Hippocratic oath, which specifically outlaws abortions, has been modified over the last 2,500 years. The rate at which the oath has been changing has accelerated as political correctness has become de rigueur in medicine as in intellectual disciplines.

Betraying a patient's confidence is a heinous sin today whereas Hippocrates was less severe. He said that no doctor should disclose a patient's secrets, except possibly to other members of the profession, unless the secrets "ought to be spread abroad".

The question now being



Dr Thomas Stuttford

asked is whether Professor Bennett betrayed a patient's confidentiality when he told the press about the case of a woman who wanted one of her twins aborted. Originally it seemed that the mother's needs were not dictated by individual preference but by poverty, poor housing and the lack of support of a husband. Now, however, we are told that the reason for the abortion was individual preference for a singleton. It may be that Professor Bennett thought this case so ethically important, as indeed it is, that it should be widely discussed. Did he, therefore, possibly in an effort to conceal the identity of the patient, introduce details that were untrue. And, if he did so, was the patient's

confidentiality so strong that the story became distorted in a way that made subsequent public discussion worthless?

As journalists, we may alter the identity of characters about whom we write so as to protect their privacy, but never to the extent that the story itself is distorted. So, if this discussion were worthless, could Professor Bennett continue to excuse himself if he were called before Apollo, Aesculapius et al on the grounds that this knowledge ought to be spread abroad because public discussion was in everybody's interest.

Talking to a distinguished obstetrician about another case yesterday, he said by way of a postscript: "What a

Charlotte's has become." So it has, for given the evidence that has so far been presented it is hard to find an adequate reason to destroy a healthy twin in order to further the career of a professional woman, who has a rich husband capable of affording a nanny. There may well be another side to this story that has not been told, in which case many of Professor Bennett's colleagues would believe that Hippocrates would agree that it should be spread abroad so that we the doctors, the lay public and our political leaders can all discuss the ethical issues it raises.

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'This is a truly happy ending. It is a miracle they are alive and they are very happy to be home'

Capsized mariners lived for five days on a raw seagull

By Shirley English

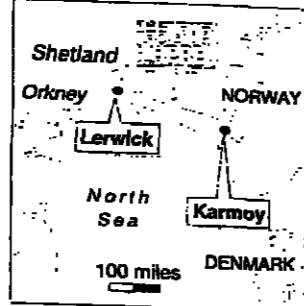
TWO Norwegian rowers, feared drowned at sea after their boat capsized in fierce weekend storms, survived in the North Sea for five days by eating a raw seagull.

Audun Nordhus, 39, and Trygve Norman Michelsen, 34, both oil workers, were found yesterday, adrift 100 miles off Shetland two days after an air-sea search for them had been called off. They had been missing since Saturday.

They told coastguards their 19ft rowing boat capsized on Saturday night in gales and although they managed to inflate their liferaft, there was no time to grab food or water. The only thing that kept them alive was a dead seagull.

Yesterday, weakened by hunger and dehydration, the men were plucked to safety by Scottish fishermen on the vessel *Alene* who spotted them at midday. It brought to an end a four-day international rescue operation in which six aircraft from Shetland and Norway scoured 100,000 square miles of sea, but failed to trace the men or boat.

Eric Hjemre, from the rescue centre at Stavanger, which co-ordinated the rescue, said: "They managed to get



into the liferaft and they caught a seagull and ate it and got some rain water off the top of the raft in order to survive.

The sailors were airlifted to hospital in Haugesund, Norway, where they had an emotional reunion with their families, who had feared they were dead.

Dr Holst Larsen, who was treating them, said: "They are very happy to be back. I was surprised how well they looked. They walked into the hospital unaided. They were hungry, but not that dehydrated.

Their condition was surprisingly good given that they went through and they have now left the hospital and gone home to their families."

Norwegian coastguards said it was a miracle they were alive. The men told them that

they had seen helicopters overhead, but had been unable to attract their attention. On Tuesday the initial search had been called off and it was only restarted when their capsized boat was found on Wednesday night by Scottish fishermen on the *Moray Way*.

The rowers planned to row from Norway to Shetland. They started out from Karmoy Island, off southern Norway, last Wednesday and expected the journey to take one week. It was their second attempt at the 240-mile voyage. When they failed to report to an oil rig at the Frigg oilfield, halfway across on Saturday, relatives alerted coastguards.

Angus Bang Anderson, of the Norwegian coastguard, said the full story would not emerge until the men had been interviewed by the authorities.

The men's radio appears to have failed and the satellite navigator beacon was unused. Mr Anderson said: "This is a truly happy ending. It is a miracle they are alive."

Mr Nordhus has two children, aged 6 and 8 and Mr Michelsen has three children, aged between 6 and 16. Attempting the same voyage in June, the two adventurers were forced back by exhaustion and bad weather.



Mihelsen and Nordhus setting off for Shetland from Karmoy Island last week in the rowing boat that capsized in gale-force winds

Swimmer survives five hours in North Sea

A WOMAN who went for a swim in the North Sea was found five hours later, four and a half miles out. A lifeguard official said it was a miracle that she was still alive.

Danielle Ackroyd, 28, was seen going into the water in a swimming costume at Redcar, North Yorkshire, at 8.50 yesterday morning after leaving her clothes on the beach. Within an hour two lifeboats, a police spotter plane and an RAF helicopter were

scrambled after a passer-by raised the alarm.

However, Ms Ackroyd, from Darlington, Co Durham, was spotted by a passing ferry which radioed the skipper of the Tees dredger *Cleveland*, who launched a boat to rescue her. She was taken to Middlesbrough General Hospital by an RAF helicopter, suffering from hypothermia. Her condition was said to be stable last night. The helicopter pilot, Flight Lieutenant

David Farman, said: "She was very cold, and she must have been an Olympic standard swimmer not to drown. Although we had not given up all hope, we were not expecting to find her alive after four hours. We expected to pick up a dead body."

"She was wearing a swimming costume and appears to have gone out for a swim. How she survived so long in the North Sea is amazing and from previous experience I wouldn't have

expected anyone to be alive after that amount of time in the water."

The Redcar lifeboat launch co-ordinator, Dave Carnish, said: "It's a miracle she was alive. It defies all logic and the textbooks that she could survive so long and so far out. She's certainly very lucky to be alive and I only hope she makes a full recovery. It might be summer but the sea temperature is still very low and she must have been totally exhausted."

Zulu boy may come back to London

By Inigo Gilmore

THE natural father of a ten-year-old Zulu boy who was forced to leave his comfortable London home for a South African township denied yesterday that he was about to return his son to the white woman the boy regards as his mother.

But Charles Mahlangu, who won custody of the boy after a legal battle which ended in the House of Lords, said he had not ruled out the idea.

Expectations grew yesterday that the boy, Sifiso Mahlangu, was to be sent back to England to complete his education. He was separated from his foster mother, Salome Stopford, 50, who has looked after him since he was a baby, after the legal wrangle which followed her attempts to adopt him. Mr Mahlangu agreed at the time of the custody battle to return Sifiso within six months if the boy was not happy with his new life near Johannesburg.

Mrs Stopford said that Mr Mahlangu had repeated his pledge to return Sifiso in several interviews in South Africa, but she had been unable to contact him. "I wish he would phone me and confirm that he is sending Sifiso back. I just hope that Charles isn't lying, that would be cruelly beyond words."

Split loyalties, page 14



Burne-Jones's *Two Girls with a Viol and Music*

Thieves raid van for £500,000 painting

A PAINTING worth about £500,000 was stolen from a delivery van outside Christie's auctioneers in London, police disclosed yesterday. Insurers offered a reward of up to £50,000 for the safe return of *Two Girls with a Viol and Music*, by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones, stolen on Tuesday.

Detectives believe the 27in x 24in oil canvas, set in a gilt frame, was taken when the shipping agent's driver and male were inside Christie's office in Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, delivering

another item. The work had been stored in an unmarked wooden air-freight crate. A stockily built white man seen near the van between 11.30am and 11.40am on Tuesday is being sought.

Mark Dalrymple, a specialist fine art loss adjuster for Tyler and Co, said that his company had circulated details of the painting in Europe and the United States through Interpol.

A spokeswoman for Christie's said: "The theft did not take place on our premises. The painting was not our property."

Girl to fly home as parents are held on drug charges

By Mark Huband in Rabat and Emma Wilkins

A GIRL aged eight was being cared for by the British Consul in Tangier last night after her parents were charged with attempting to smuggle £850,000 worth of drugs out of Morocco.

Victoria Richards, who was with her parents, David and Jill, when they were arrested last week, will fly home to Britain to stay with relatives within the next few days. The family, from Alnwick, Northumberland, were stopped by police at the port of Tangier as they attempted to board a ferry to Spain nine days ago. The parents face up to ten years in prison.

Officers, who are believed to have been acting on a tip-off, found 221.5 kilograms of hashish with an estimated value of £850,000 hidden in the bodywork of the family's camper van. Mr Richards, 44, a former North Sea diver and pub barman, and his wife, 40, appeared in court in Tangier yesterday charged with transporting and attempting to



Victoria: has seen her mother twice since arrest

held in separate wings of Tangier jail since their arrest. Victoria, who is the couple's only child, has seen her mother twice in an annex in the local courthouse. She is in remarkably high spirits and has been playing on the beach, according to Stephanie Sweet, the British Consul.

"I have been looking after Vicky since her parents were arrested and she is very happy

Sweet said. "She is taking it all very well but obviously the reunions have been very emotional for her mother."

Friends and neighbours of the couple said they were astonished by their arrest. Mr Richards had been forced to give up work five years ago after he injured his back and occasionally worked behind the bar in local pubs, friends said.

Mrs Richards has two children from a previous marriage who live with their father in the North East. The family left home on July 29, telling neighbours they were holidaying with Mr Richards' parents in Oxfordshire. They flew to Malaga, Spain, from Gatwick airport a fortnight ago and collected a camper van.

Since December the government says it has smashed at least ten major cannabis trafficking networks. Earlier this week Sally Griffiths, 18, and Claire Martin, 19, were sentenced to five years in a Moroccan jail after being found guilty of drug trafficking. Five kilograms of cannabis were found in their

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Split loyalties, page 14

Crunch decisions in a search for the super bowl

Duel at breakfast time as Kellogg's threaten Tesco

COMPETITION between brand-name manufacturers and own-label retailers cracked again yesterday when Kellogg's ordered Tesco to change three "copycat" packets or face the threat of legal action. The demand follows the launch of a nationwide press and poster campaign with the slogan: "If you don't see the Kellogg's name on the box, it isn't Kellogg's in the box."

There is a lot at stake in Britain's multi-million breakfast cereal market. A spokesman for Kellogg's said: "It is flattering that Tesco is trying to mimic our products, because Kellogg's is the gold standard. Kellogg's prefers to resolve issues out of court, but should settlement not be found both Kellogg's and Tesco are signatories to a recent initiative on the resolution of lookalike products. Kellogg's position with regard to legal proceedings is reserved."



Young in action: the Editor's decision was final

WHO can tell Kellogg's corn flakes from Tesco's? Not many people, a blind taste test proved yesterday in the offices of *The Times*. By the simple expedient of setting up a corn-flake version of Find the Lady, quickly established that most people find the rivals indistinguishable without even looking at the boxes.

Two samples of Tesco flakes were set up alongside a single sample of Kellogg's. Dry flakes and bowls with added milk were provided for each of the samples, which were la-

belled anonymously as A, B and C. Added sugar was not allowed because uneven quantities might have destroyed the scientific basis of the experiment. Then it was a simple question of find the odd one out, or: "Which is the Kellogg's?"

Then Madine Felix, 16-year-old daughter of a foreign-desk colleague, said she thought C was the odd one out, though she preferred A. There followed a flurry of votes for C. B got its first mention only when the twelfth taster, Harvey Elliott, our air and travel correspondent, said that on appearance B looked distinctively different. On taste, though, he admitted that all

three seemed alike to him. Another eight tasters voted for A or C before the Editor came by on his way to the editorial conference. Taking a single dry flake from each bowl in turn, he subjected them to a sharp nip. "B is the odd one out," he pronounced. "B is Kellogg's." And as luck — or discriminating palate — would have it, he

was absolutely right. Subsequently, four more staff made the correct identification. The final tally was 24 votes for A, 18 for C, and only 5 for the correct answer, B.

THE CORN FLAKE TEST

Brand	Appearance	Texture	In milk	Flavour	Mark/20
Kwik Save	large, puffed	good crunch	floppy	nutty	5
Safeway Savers	light yellow	bubbly	absorbent	crispbread	6
Sainsbury's	gross, sandy	dull, flilly	soggy	missing	3
Asda	mixed colour	average	collapsed	neutral	4
Safeway	orange pale blots	skin to Tesco	soon drowned	pleasant	8
Sainsbury's	orange, blistered	light	short-lived	cooked	10
Tesco	vivid orange	crinkly	residual crunch	toasty	13
Kellogg's	orange, dotted	febrile	second best	moorish	15
	neat, bouncy	extra crunchy	best	attractive	19



The £903m story behind big names in daily cereal

By DES BURKINSHAW

THE British breakfast cereal market is worth £903 million a year. Only Ireland consumes more cereals per head.

The allegations of lookalike packaging could become the first to go to mediation through the Institute of Grocery Distribution's code of practice. It was introduced as a result of the Government's refusal in 1994 to outlaw copycat packaging, despite lobbying from manufacturers.

Tesco attracted criticism in when it launched its Unbelievable spread, which Unilever claimed resembled its I Can't Believe It's Not Butter packaging. Procter and Gamble claimed Tesco had copied its Fairy Liquid washing-up bottle. In 1994, Coca-Cola forced Sainsbury to change the design of its Classic Cola drink, which borrowed heavily from the classic red and white Coke logo.

John Noble, director of the non-profit making British Brand Group, said: "The IGD code of practice was introduced less than a year ago to help trading partners to negotiate a settlement. Both Tesco and Kellogg's have signed that code, which says they should avoid commercial plagiarism. If discussions fail, it will only leave the heavy guns of litigation."

insist that their products taste as good as the leading brands, but at a fraction of the cost. A 750 gram packet of Tesco corn flakes is currently on special offer at 99p compared to Kellogg's at £1.49. Safeway offers a standard 500g packet for 89p and a Savers packet for 49p.

Corn flakes developed from the pioneering health-food work of the Kellogg brothers, Will Keith and Dr John Harvey. Will Keith Kellogg began producing ready-to-eat cereals at the end of the last century while working at The Seventh Day Adventist hospital and health spa, Battle Creek Sanitarium, in Michigan. Wheat flakes were developed first; corn flakes came almost by accident.

A leading nutritionist, Amanda Ursell, said yesterday that corn flakes were an important source of nutrients and vitamins for women and schoolchildren. She said: "For women the iron and folic acid are particularly important, and studies have shown that schoolchildren who go without breakfast cereals are unlikely to make up later in the day the quantities of B group vitamins which they miss."

All the corn flakes sampled contained iron, folic acid and B group vitamins. Several of the supermarket own-brands had rather more vitamins and iron than Kellogg's.

Late bookers face holiday price rise

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

LATE-BOOKING holiday-makers are facing surcharges of up to £30 as travel companies move to eliminate last-minute bargains.

Airtours, Britain's second biggest tour operator, told travel agents yesterday to increase prices immediately on any unsold summer holiday by £20 to £30. For example, a family of four buying a two-week package in Playa de Las Americas in Tenerife will pay £1,231.72 compared with the brochure price of £1,151.72.

Richard Carrick, Airtours' marketing director, blamed supply and demand. "We warned that there would not be enough holidays to go

round and those who waited will now have to pay a price premium."

Some rivals said the move might breach European consumer protection laws. But Airtours is convinced that by asking travel agents to remove its brochures from the shelves — except for one copy which can be used to calculate the surcharges — it has complied with the letter of the law.

The Association of British Travel Agents supported the view. A spokesman said: "Under the regulations the prices quoted in the brochures must be accurate. But by removing all the brochures and ensuring that no one can be misled we believe they have complied with the law."

The travel industry has been desperate to halt a move towards increasingly late booking which cost it tens of millions in discounts last year. Thomson has introduced "flexible pricing" under which booked holidays are offered at

Mr Allen and his FEROCIOUS butterflies.



For years, Mr and Mrs Allen's unique Tropical Butterfly Garden in Great Ellingham, Norfolk has been a mecca for lepidoptera and nature lovers alike. And although, surprisingly, no visitor has ever reported being maimed by a marauding Monarch, some upholder of officialdom decided that to 'protect the public' the gardens must be registered under the 1981 Zoo Licensing Act. It was register and conform or face closure.

Now, after receiving rigorous inspection which even covered the question of a 'firearms operative' (one assumes an case of the escape of a killer Lace Wing), Mr Allen is now officially a head zoo keeper.

In the light of such nonsense, you'll forgive us for a little trepidation. Because at Beck's, individuality, originality and uniqueness are qualities that the brewmasters of Bremen insist go into every bottle. And these are the very qualities that could be lost to creeping bureaucracy, mediocrity and regulation.

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CORRECTION
The Bishop of Stafford, the Right Rev Christopher Hill, did not say that the clergy might have to abandon inner

Delays increased and investment cut in railways sell-off

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

PASSENGERS are paying the price for the break-up of British Rail, according to an industry watchdog. It says more services are running late and much-needed investment in rolling stock and track is grinding to a halt.

Government promises as to the benefits of privatisation had yet to materialise as rail staff struggled to cope with the upheaval caused by the sell-off, the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee said yesterday. Lack of investment was particularly disappointing, with the West Coast Main Line causing the most concern. It was on this route, near Warford, that a train crashed last week, killing one passenger and injuring 46.

"The performance of the West Coast Main Line has begun to show alarming signs of deterioration in the absence of a start to the major upgrading needed," the committee's report for the year to the end of

March says. Complaints to the committee soared to a record 11,460 during the year, as *The Times* disclosed earlier this month, with late, overcrowded and dirty trains causing the most concern.

The new players have got to get their act together as there is too much on the railways that is not good enough," David Bertram, the committee's chairman, said. "There is virtually no investment and for passengers it's been another year of waiting — waiting for promises to be turned into real action."

The rail industry remained in a state of suspended animation while the only visible signs of improvement were marginal changes such as free cups of coffee for passengers.

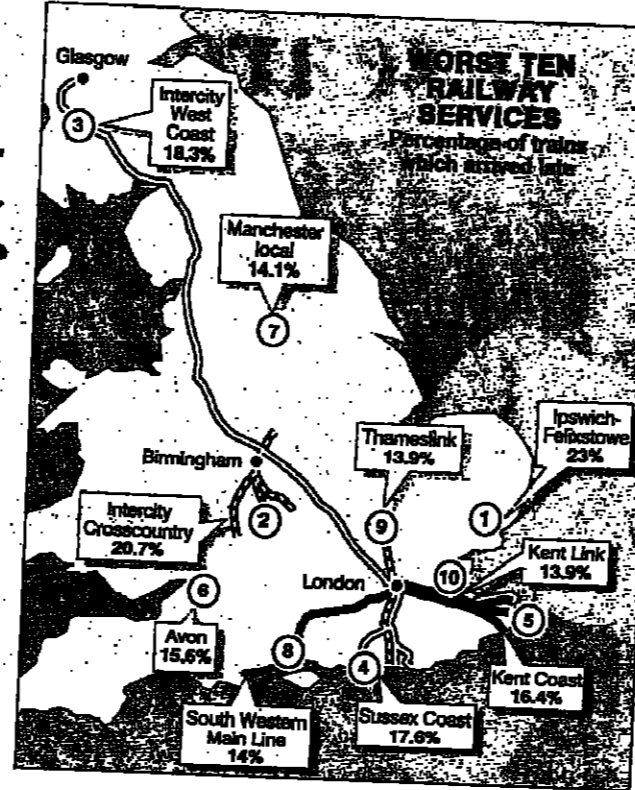
The jury is still out on privatisation and likely to remain out for some time," he said.

Labour seized on the report as "a massive thumbs down"

from the public for privatisation. "This report paints a depressing picture of soaring complaints, higher fares and plummeting investment," Glenda Jackson, a transport spokeswoman, said. "This is a clear vote of no confidence to one of John Major's flagship policies."

Complaints about late trains increased by a third as 33 of the 59 major rail lines in Britain showed declines in punctuality during the period covered by the report. The worst deterioration was on the London to Glasgow InterCity West Coast Main Line, on which nearly 20 per cent of trains were more than 10 minutes late. Complaints about dirty and overheated trains soared by 78 per cent and about overcrowded trains by half.

The committee also expressed concern about increases in fares not capped by the Government, lack of com-



As more and more of the passenger train companies pass into private hands I expect the quality of service to continue to improve."

Mr Bertram listed some improvements to services since the start of the sale of passenger franchises in February, but said more promises needed to be turned into reality for "the worst fears of privatisation... to be demonstrated as groundless and scaremongering."

The Government put a brave face on the committee's report, claiming that it was a vindication of privatisation. John Bowis, the Transport Minister, said: "In the period the report covers, the vast majority of services were still run by British Rail. That situation is now changing fast.

Wounds remain unhealed for Japan veterans

By Alan Hamilton

THE 51st anniversary yesterday of the end of the war with Japan was not a tidily rounded number, and the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph in London was a short and simple act compared with the stage-managed pomp of last year's commemorations. But the old soldiers do not forget and the wounds do not heal.

About 400 former prisoners of war and civilian internees of the Japanese, many of them women, gathered in Whitehall to remember the conclusion of the Second World War, increased at what they see as continuing insults to their dead comrades and to the privations of those who survived.

There was widespread condemnation of Koichi Sugano, a former labour camp lieutenant, who tends a shrine in Tokyo to the



Wreaths were laid yesterday for the victims of the Japanese; the anger of the survivors is still acute

building of the infamous Burma railway, which claimed the lives of 16,000 Allied prisoners and at least 100,000 Asian labourers. Interviewed by *The Times* on Wednesday, Mr Sugano said that the Japanese had nothing to be ashamed of and that the prisoners had died in a good cause as the railway was still operating.

Bill Holtham, 75, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, said at the ceremony: "This man's comments are utterly disgraceful. I would like to meet him, not to shake his hand but to wring his neck for insulting our comrades' memory."

Charles Peall, 78, of the Burma Star Association,

added: "This man was a railway engineer and they were the worst and cruellest men I have ever met."

Veterans are equally dismayed at the apparent lack of progress in their campaign to win compensation from the Japanese. After the wreath-laying, veterans' leaders handed in a letter at Downing Street urging the Government to put pressure on Tokyo to agree compensation.

Another letter, handed in at the Japanese Embassy yesterday, says: "Japan is the only outstanding ex-member of the Axis powers not to have acknowledged her past misdeeds to the world at large and not to have paid reparations to its victims."

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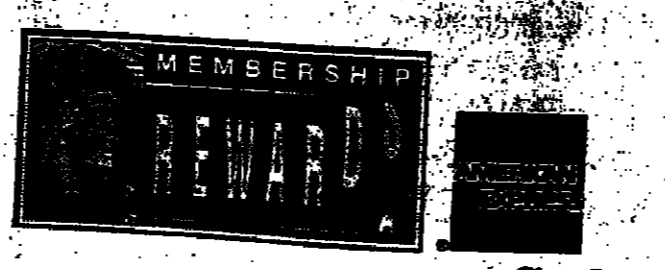


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Earprint evidence to be used in court

By Paul Wilkinson

A BURGLARY case due to come before a Lancashire court is set to make English legal history. It will be the first trial in which a print of the alleged thief's ear will be presented as proof that the defendant was at the scene.

Scientists have discovered that the shape of an ear is as individual as a fingerprint and they aim to build a library of "lug-shots" in the way that criminals' faces and fingerprints are filed. Lecturers at the National Training Centre for Scientific Support to Criminal Investigation, at Crook, Co Durham, are teaching police to dust windows or doors for evidence that burglars have pressed their heads against them while gaining entry.

Dr Norman Weston, of the centre, said police in Holland and Switzerland already use prints as evidence. "Criminals will put their ear to a window or door in an attempt to find out if anyone is inside. That leaves an impression of the ear on the surface which can be detected in the same way we look for fingerprints by dusting with fine aluminium powder," he said.

"Often we find that after listening the criminal will move to another point in a house to gain entry. Crime examiners tend to concentrate their efforts at the entry point, but we are teaching them to look more widely for earprints."

Keith Fryer, deputy director at the centre, said a different method was used to taking fingerprints: "Ears are sufficiently waxy for us to press a piece of clear plastic against the side of the subject's head before dusting the film with aluminium powder to get the impression for our database."

Asylum bids rose after legal judgment

By Richard Ford

APPLICATIONS for asylum almost doubled in the weeks after a court ruling led to the Government restoring welfare benefits to people seeking refuge in Britain.

According to government figures published yesterday, applications for asylum by people who had arrived in the country for another reason rose from 920 in June to 1,700 in July, having fallen by a third earlier in the year.

Ministers believe the sudden surge was triggered by an Appeal Court ruling at the end of June that reinstated benefits, including housing benefit and income support, to asylum seekers. The Court ruled that Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, had exceeded his powers when he introduced changes designed to save £200 million a year. Lord Justice Simon Brown said the withdrawal of benefits could cause destitution among asylum seekers which no civilised state could tolerate.

The Commons reinstated the curbs at the end of July, but the Home Office believes that hundreds of people took advantage of the few weeks between the court ruling and Commons decision.

Timothy Kirkhope, the Immigration Minister, said the increase in applications undermined the Government's claim that the availability of benefits encouraged people already in Britain as visitors, for instance, to seek asylum.

Immigration figures for 1995 show that 43,965 people applied for asylum, with the number from Poland increasing from 360 in 1994 to 1,210. The dramatic increase raised concern that groups in Poland were targeting the UK as a "soft option".

Cure hope for bug that struck Darwin

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

RESEARCHERS have found a drug to tackle a disease which affects 18 million people in Latin America and may have been caught by Charles Darwin.

Chagas' disease is a parasitic illness spread by bloodsucking bugs rather like bedbugs. The parasite causes an acute flu-like illness, but then disappears, lurking in the body for years.

The disease can affect the heart, gullet or intestine, causing death up to 30 years after infection. But in the chronic form which experts believe Darwin contracted aboard the *Beagle*, the symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath, and digestive problems. Darwin's diaries are full of references to his ill-health, such as "stomach greatly disordered" and "smallest exertion most irksome".

It appears to have developed two years after his return, when he was 30. He wrote later that on most days he felt "great prostration of health".

In *Science*, a team of scientists led by a Venezuelan and

...eases, say a new anti-fungal drug called D0870, originally synthesised by ICI, proved effective against the parasite in mice.

Mice were infected with a large dose of a strain of the disease that, if untreated, would kill them within three weeks. Next day they were given D0870, which proved to be 30 to 50 times more effective than existing drugs.

They then tested the treated mice to detect the presence of the parasite, and found that in 60 per cent it had been destroyed. They also infected mice with lower doses of another strain of the parasite. The new drug increased survival and eliminated infection in 90 per cent.

Chris Dalton of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, says the compound was developed as an anti-fungal, for treating thrush. Dr Ryley said it was far too early to say whether the drug would prove safe and effective in humans. It was his idea to test the drug against Chagas' disease. "It is significant that the experiments have

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AUGUST 16 1996

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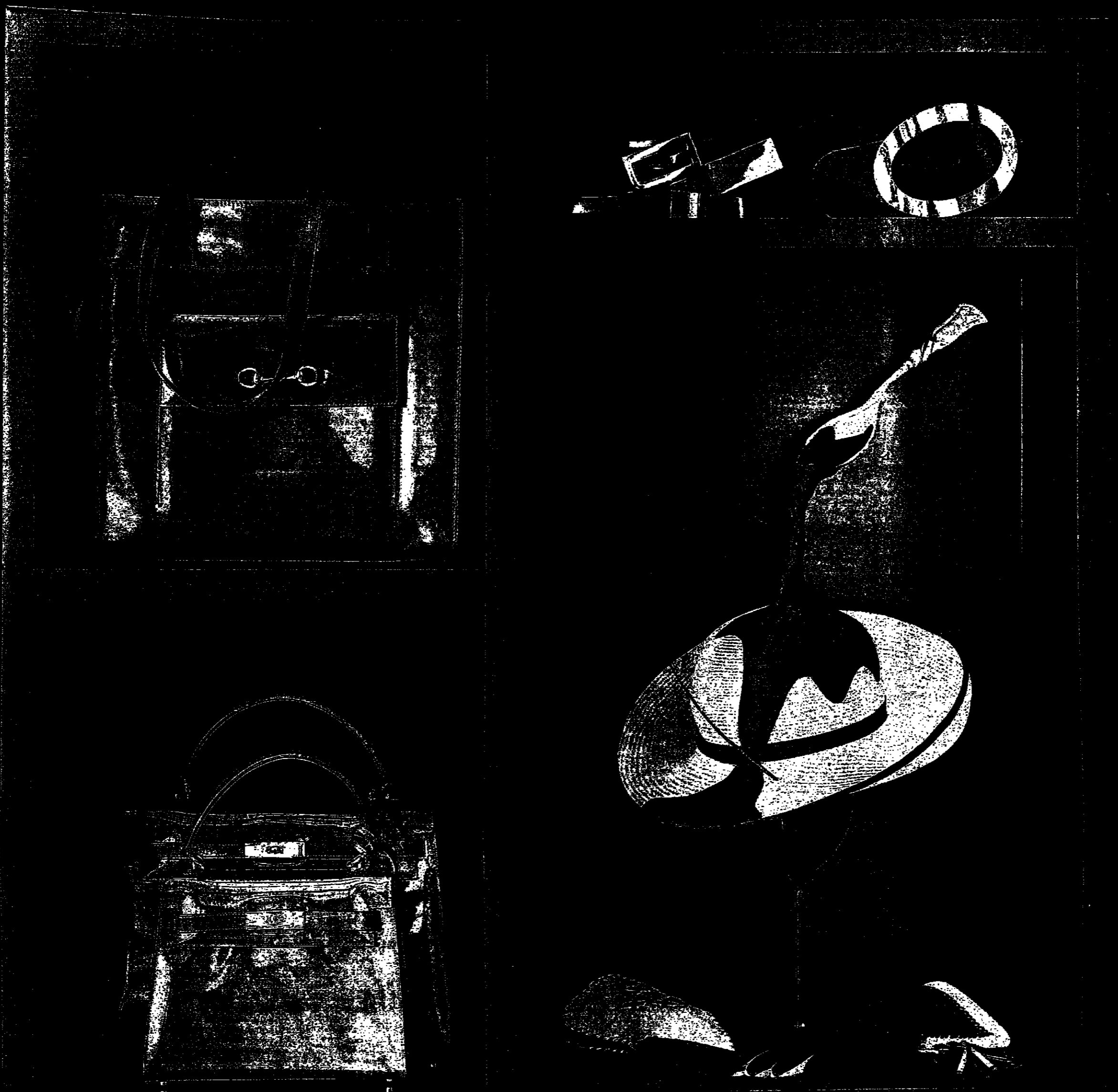
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Lincoln became a place where retired legionaries might spend their days after military service

The fortress that was left to its own peaceful resources

By ALAN HAMILTON

PROUD Lincoln, on its airy limestone ridge, is the perfect demonstration that in a large part of England the Roman military occupation was brief, and that the peaceful civilian colonisation lasted far longer.

In the earliest years of conquest the IX Legion Hispana, pushing up the east of the country, struck a temporary camp on the banks of the River Witham, on the site of an Iron Age settlement known to the locals as Lindon, the place by the pool. The new arrivals Latinised it as Lindum, and we now know it as Lincoln.

Evidence suggests that the legion had barely settled in when it was called south again to deal with the rebellion of Bouddica and her Iceni tribe. The legion was all but wiped out, only a few straggling survivors making it back to base.

Startled by the degree of opposition from the flatlands of Norfolk, the Romans built a bigger and better-defended fort at Lindum, with walls of stone, covering 41 acres. But then the source of anti-imperial trouble moved north, to the wild Brigantes of northern England and Scotland, and the legion was moved to a



new headquarters at York in about AD 71. It was replaced by the II Legion Adiutrix, recruited from what is now Croatia. It had been in Lincoln barely five minutes when it was moved to deal with the troublesome Welsh. From about AD 78, Lincoln became a civilian town.

Within a very few years it had been given the high status of a *colonia*, a town where retired legionaries might spend their days in peace after military service. There were three others in Britain: Colchester, Gloucester and York, free boroughs running their own affairs. The modern equivalent would be Lincoln City Council, with the Royal British Legion the majority party in the town hall.

Lincoln stood astride Ermine Street, the Roman MI running from London to York. It entered the city at the

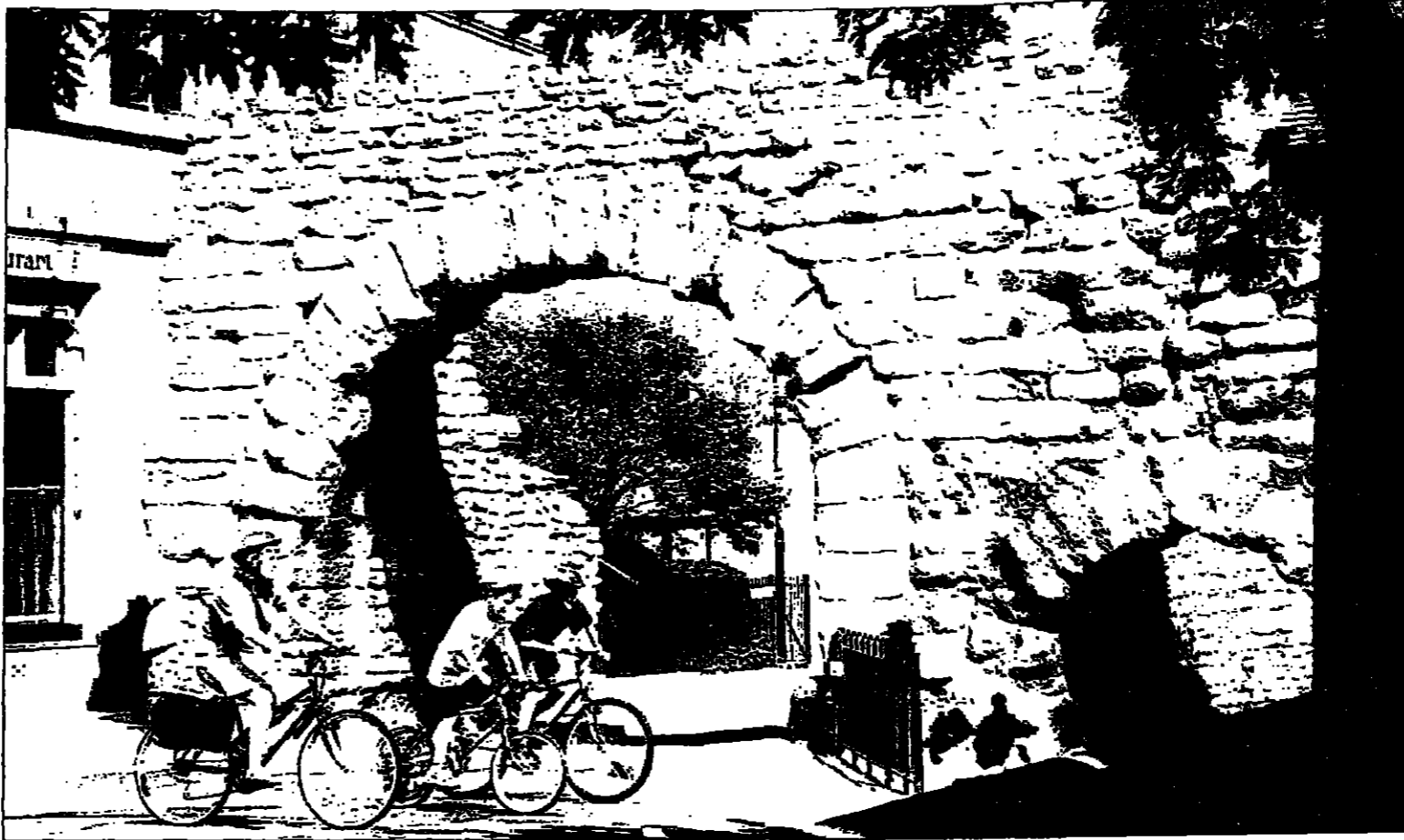
junction of present-day High Street and Guildhall Street, and left it again at the Newport Arch. Much remains of the city defences, with large segments of wall and substantial remnants of gateways intact, but we know little of the city within.

Excavation suggests two cities, an upper and a lower, probably connected by a grand arrangement of stairs and ramps as monumental as anything in the empire north of the Alps, in the region of today's Sleep Hill. The few archaeological remains suggest a prosperous, bustling and elegant town, as cosmopolitan as all the other main Roman settlements in Britain. Fragments of mosaic pavement and sewers indicate a considerable degree of civilisation and hygiene within the 97 walled acres.

At the height of its development, Roman Lincoln had a population of about 5,000, making it a substantial metropolis in a country which, in the early Christian era, had four million inhabitants at the most. It was a road junction, where the Fosse Way met Ermine Street, and a port, linked by a dyke to the River Trent and the North Sea.

And, like all Roman cities, it was cosmopolitan. Surviving tombstones in the museum — sadly closed for an indefinite period — record legionaries and civilians who started life in Gaul, Greece, Spain, Macedonia and even Hungary. It is a reminder that Romans were not necessarily from Rome — indeed very few who reached Britain were Italians — and that a Roman meant a citizen of the Roman empire, which stretched from Carlisle to Damascus, Spain to the Rhine.

But even as a southern European, you could regard the windy flatlands of Lincolnshire as almost bearable when coupled with the familiarities of the Latin language, a bath house, flush lavatories and fish sauce.



Newport Arch, in Lincoln's outer wall, marked the point where Ermine Street headed north to York. It was damaged by a lorry in 1964

Archway survives ravages of time

LINCOLN displays the only complete Roman arch surviving in Britain and still used by traffic (Alan Hamilton writes). But the traffic very nearly caused its downfall in 1964 when a lorry partly demolished it. It has since been rebuilt.

Substantial remnants of the gateways and walls of the upper city can be seen within easy walking distance of the cathedral, in the forecourt of the Eastgate Hotel and the adjacent car park.

The narrow lane of East Bight nearby takes you to the Newport Arch, where Ermine Street left the defences of Lincoln, heading for York. The streets of Balgate and High Street follow the line of Ermine Street. Turn off Balgate along Westgate to the Castle Hotel and in the alley of West Bight alongside the Mint Wall, a large

surviving fragment, 66ft long and 18ft high, and assumed to have been the rear wall of the Basilica, the city hall of Roman Lincoln. In Balgate, granite blocks in the road mark the front of the Basilica.

Across Westgate from the Castle Hotel, in a landscaped area, is a well-preserved (although undoubtedly rebuilt) tiled Roman wellhead. In the cathedral, under a stairway at the northeastern corner of the cloisters, is a fragment of Roman pavement.

Of the buildings within the lower city little is known, but a large section of its wall and west gate are exposed in the forecourt of the city council offices in Orchard Street. There is a good display of Roman coins in the Usher Art Gallery in Broadgate (Mon-Sat 10.30, Sun 2.30-5, admission £1, Fridays free).

Beaten Iceni were herded into Norfolk new town

BOUDICCA'S revolt against Rome was to cost the warrior queen of the Iceni her life, and her people their freedom (Bill Frost writes). Such was the conquerors' fury that, once the rag-tag army was cornered, every man, camp follower and packhorse was put to the sword.

Those who remained in their East Anglian homeland during the revolt in AD 60-61 lost all will to fight on when they heard of the queen's death. The Iceni were to face compulsory "civilisation" in the new town of Caistor St Edmund, *Venta Icenorum*.

The settlement, three miles south of Norwich, was built on the east bank of the Tas and, in its early stages, appears to have been made up of very humble huts. There would also have been a substantial Roman garrison. However, by the 2nd century,

the Iceni no longer represented a threat. A stone forum and basilica with colonnade were built and public baths were opened. Roman homes replaced huts and there is evidence of a pottery industry. Later, probably during the pirate raids of the 3rd century, walls went up around the town.

They were made of concrete, faced with flint and brick. The area inside is only about 34 acres, indicating that *Venta Icenorum* was among the smallest tribal capitals.

Today the visitor can see the formidable ditch and earth ramparts, which bound rich farmland and the church of St Edmund built from Roman stone.

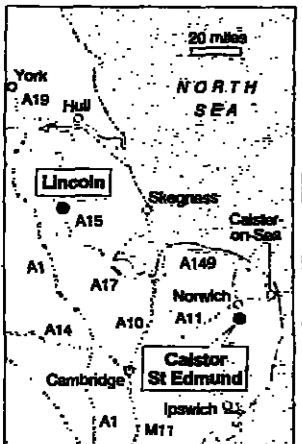
In the middle of the 4th century the town was dying after pirates had driven out all but the bravest. It is thought that a handful of

Romano-British legionaries and mercenaries remained and that their bodies may be buried in a cemetery south of the walls.

Any visit to the area should also include Caister-on-Sea three miles north of Yarmouth. Although inland now, the site was once a seaport ideally suited for trade with the Continent.

Originally protected by a timber palisade, a flint wall was to be built around Caister-on-Sea as pirate attacks grew. Beyond the southern gate are the remains of a large building thought to have been a seaman's hostel. The foundations are also visible of the town wall and its south gate to a harbour that long ago silted up.

Tomorrow: Cirencester, Roman women and food



Legionaries dispatched from Lincoln to deal with Bouddica in East Anglia were all but wiped out

Beggar mother died from natural causes

A BRITISH woman whose body was found in a squalid Greek room, with her nine-year-old son lying hungry and dirty beside her, died from natural causes, a coroner ruled yesterday.

Jane Heath, 37, died from pneumonia with liver cirrhosis as a contributory factor, the inquest at Yeovil was told. Her son, Eric, who had worn a placard saying "I'm English, please help" while begging with his mother, was brought back to

Britain to live with his grandparents. Miss Heath's body was found in February at Piracus, The East Somerset Coroner, Nicholas Rheinberg, said it appeared that she had died in "circumstances of tragic squalor".

After a post-mortem examination in Greece it was said that she had died from choking on her vomit. But a British pathologist, Dr Jonathan Sheffield, told the inquest that he disagreed with the

finding and was satisfied she had died from pneumonia.

She went to Greece in 1984 with her husband, Mike, but after they separated she became homeless and started begging. She died in the room of a Greek tinker, who had taken her and Eric in 24 hours earlier.

Eric, whose father died last year, is living with his grandparents, Eric Heath, 74, and his wife, Carol, 60, in Somerset.

Glasgow prepares to lose its bottle

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TIME has been called on Glasgow's hard-drinking image. On Monday, it will become the first city in Britain with a total ban on consuming alcohol in public.

From then on, any real-life equivalents of television's Rab C. Nesbitt — clutching a drink in the street and ready for a fight — face fines of up to £500. So will anyone who just wants to cool off with a beer in the city's George Square, or enjoy a heaker of beaumonts on a picnic in Pollok Country Park.

Glasgow police station already takes in up to 100 prisoners on alcohol-related offences each weekend. James Coleman, the city's licensing board chairman, said yesterday: "We face the same problems as any major town — people swaggering down the street, hanging around street corners, abusing alcohol in parks, or drinking outside football grounds."

"These bylaws are taking the streets, parks and public spaces back for the decent majority of people."

Glasgow's growing café-bar society and beer gardens will not be affected by the ban, which has the enthusiastic support of the pub trade. John MacLeod, manager of the town-centre Café Rouge, said: "I think it's a great idea, although, to be fair, I think Glasgow's been living with an out-of-date law name."

"The place is much more cosmopolitan now. We've definitely

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Original sketch

Catholics set to ordain married Anglican clergy

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Original sketches of much-loved Moggy fetch £26,000

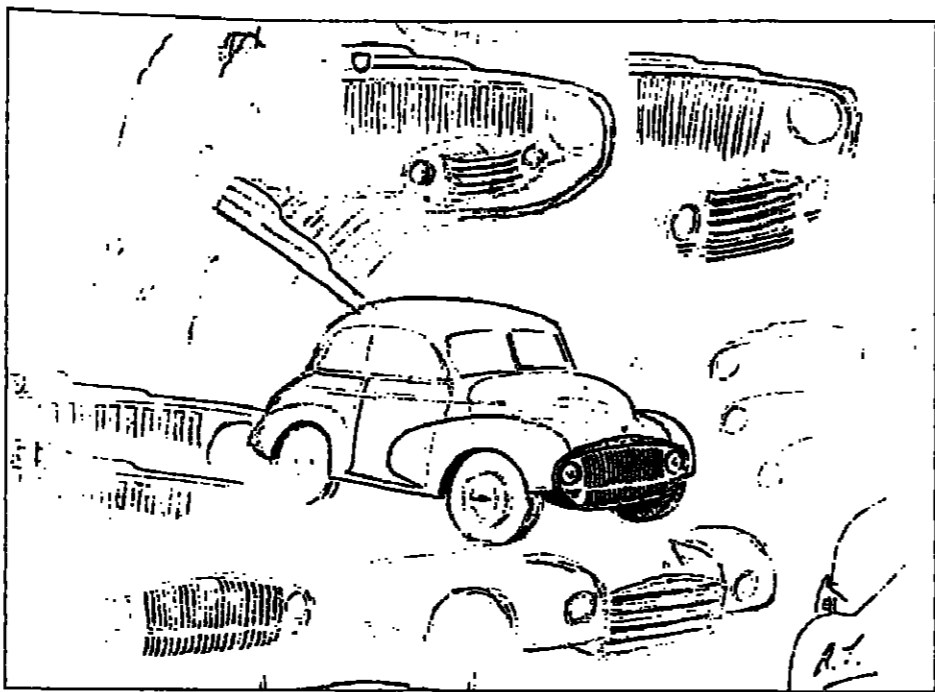
BY JOHN VINCENT AND PAUL WILKINSON

A WEALTHY businessman, who owns what he claims is the finest Morris Minor in the world, paid nearly £26,000 yesterday for the original drawings of the classic car.

Keith Fletcher, 54, who recently turned down an offer of £30,000 for his maroon 1949 "lowlight" convertible, paid nearly 26 times the estimate of £1,000 for the sketches by its designer, Sir Alec Issigonis. He said after fierce bidding at Christies: "I would have paid half a million if I'd had to."

The sketches for Britain's first people's car of the post-war years, at first dismissed as resembling "a poached egg" by the motor magnate Lord Nuffield, surfaced recently, together with Issigonis's sketches for a later triumph, the Mini, which fetched just £2,530.

Mr Fletcher, from Eardson, Coventry, a managing director of several companies, said that his fascination with the Minor began in 1966 when he found one for his aunt. He inherited the car from her 20 years later, joined the Morris Minor Club, and bought the convertible, called



Issigonis designed the Morris Minor as a tough, good-looking car for the masses; the Coventry Sociable is often credited as being the original "bicycle made for two"

a "lowlight" because of its low-slung lights.

"I have fully restored it and now I can say without any exaggeration it is probably the best Morris Minor in the world. A collector in Australia offered me £30,000. I told him it was not for sale at any

price." The Morris Minor, Britain's answer to the VW Beetle, was in production from 1948 to 1971 and earned the affectionate nickname "Moggy".

Issigonis designed it in answer to the call of Sir Stafford Cripps for a mass-

produced "cheap, tough good-looking car".

In another auction yesterday, the machine often credited with being the original "bicycle made for two"—even though it has four wheels—fetched a record price of £25,300 at Phillips's salerooms

in Retford, Nottinghamshire. The rare Victorian cycle, known as the Coventry Sociable, because of its side-by-side seats, had two large wheels on each side and a small wheel front and back.

Roger Street, its former owner, said he had often been

asked if the Coventry Sociable was the same bike featured in the music hall song *Daisy*, written in 1892 by Harry Dacre and made famous by Katie Lawrence, the music hall star. But Mr Street said: "Unfortunately, the current opinion is that the machine in

the song was a normal tandem because *Daisy* was written ten years after the last Coventry Sociable was made."

Aidan Hetherington of Phillips said: "We had expected it to sell for between £12,000 and £18,000."

Rail relics hit buffers

SIR William McAlpine, who keeps a full-size locomotive at the bottom of his garden, is to sell part of his celebrated railway collection to meet losses at Lloyd's (John Shaw writes).

More than 600 lots covering the railway age from the 1840s are expected to fetch about £100,000 at Bonhams in London next month. Sir William, a director of the family civil engineering firm, said yesterday: "This is the first time I've ever sold anything from the collection but I need to raise a little money."

He is retaining an 0-4-0 industrial locomotive that runs on a mile of track at his home in Oxfordshire. Sir William saved the 1913 Hudswell Clark engine from scrap after it had worked on McAlpine sites.

A feature of the auction on September 10 will be a painting of *The Flying Scotsman* on the Forth Bridge by Terence Cuneo, which, it is estimated, will fetch between £5,000 and £7,000.

Catholics set to ordain married Anglican clergy

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CARDINAL Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, is to ordain married former Anglican clergy to the Roman Catholic priesthood at a mass ceremony later this year.

The ordinations come soon after Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the Italian archbishop tipped to be the next Pope, has stated that "celibacy is not necessarily linked to the priesthood". The service at Westminster Cathedral will be the first mass ceremony to ordain into the Catholic priesthood some of the dozens of married clergy who left the Church of England over the issue of women priests.

It will reopen the debate over whether a largely celibate Catholic clergy is still necessary at a time when there is a fast-developing crisis of vocations. Pressure on the Pope to soften his refusal to permit marriage to the greater part of the Catholic priesthood will certainly increase.

In November Cardinal Hume will ordain a large number of former Anglican clergy, currently serving as Catholic deacons, according to today's *Catholic Herald*. Several of the ordinands are married, although their names are not yet being disclosed by the Catholic Church. The unmarried Christopher Colven, a former Anglican clergyman, of St Stephen's, Gloucester Road, is one of those expected to be ordained.

The Right Rev Crispian Hollis, Bishop of Portsmouth,

who has three married former Anglican clergy working in his diocese, said the possibility that all Catholic priests might be allowed to marry was on the Church's "remote agenda" only.

"At the moment we are adjusting to a new situation which is the accepting of married former ministers from other denominations," he said. "I don't think anyone is thinking beyond that at the moment."

He said that the shortage of priests was being met by recruiting the laity to run parishes and administer communion. Retired priests were also brought in to help out. He was also considering the possibility that parishes could be merged, with one priest looking after two or three churches, as has already happened in the Church of England. "At the moment we are holding our own, but it is tighter than it used to be," he said.

Earlier this month, Cardinal Martini, Archbishop of Milan, said there was "no theoretical problem" preventing sexually active men from becoming Catholic clergy.

On a visit to Sydney, Cardinal Martini, 69, a Jesuit, said that "celibacy is not necessarily linked to the priesthood" and that the Church could "make some changes, some adaptations" to its present approach. However, he said that celibacy "should never be abolished or forgotten because it responds to a call of Jesus".

Homegrown apples bite back at rivals

WEEKEND SHOPPING

THE English apple season opens this weekend, a week later than last year because of the cold spring. Apples are Britain's most popular fruit, with nine million consumed each day.

Discovery, the early ripening variety now in the shops, is the best-known English eating apple after the Cox, but growers are concerned that young eaters know little of the different varieties. Many of them think, erroneously, that Granny Smith, Braeburn and Golden Delicious are British apples. Granny Smith originated in Australia and will not grow here because it requires a hot climate.

The Discovery crop will be on sale until mid-September, when the Coxes, expected to be better in size and quality than last year, come on stream.

Promotions include:

Asda: pork mince £1.99 for 454g, peppers £1.29 for four, open-cap mushrooms 75p for 375g, flavour-grown tomatoes 99p a punnet.

Budgens: fresh whole chicken £4.99 for 2.3kg, Lincolnshire pork sausages 99p for 454g, black seedless grapes 99p a lb, Galbani mozzarella cheese 69p for 125g.

Co-op: turkey escalopes £1.59 for two, premium smoked ham 99p for 113g. Bowyers

breast kebabs £2.69 each, spinach and feta cheese quiche £1.10 a slice, tandoori pie £2.09 for 100g, Galia melons 49p.

Iceland: Cherry Valley Peking duck £3.99 for 360g, breaded scampi £1.99 for 400g, rainbow trout £2.99 for 800g, mandarin cheesecake £1.49 for 500g.

Marks & Spencer: smoked salmon pâté 99p, salmon fillets £8.99 for six, tree-ripe nectarines £1.49 for four, single cream £1.15 for 200g.

Morrisons: chicken Kiev £2.89 for four, whole salmon £1.79 a lb, shark loin £2.75 a lb, peaches 89p for ten.

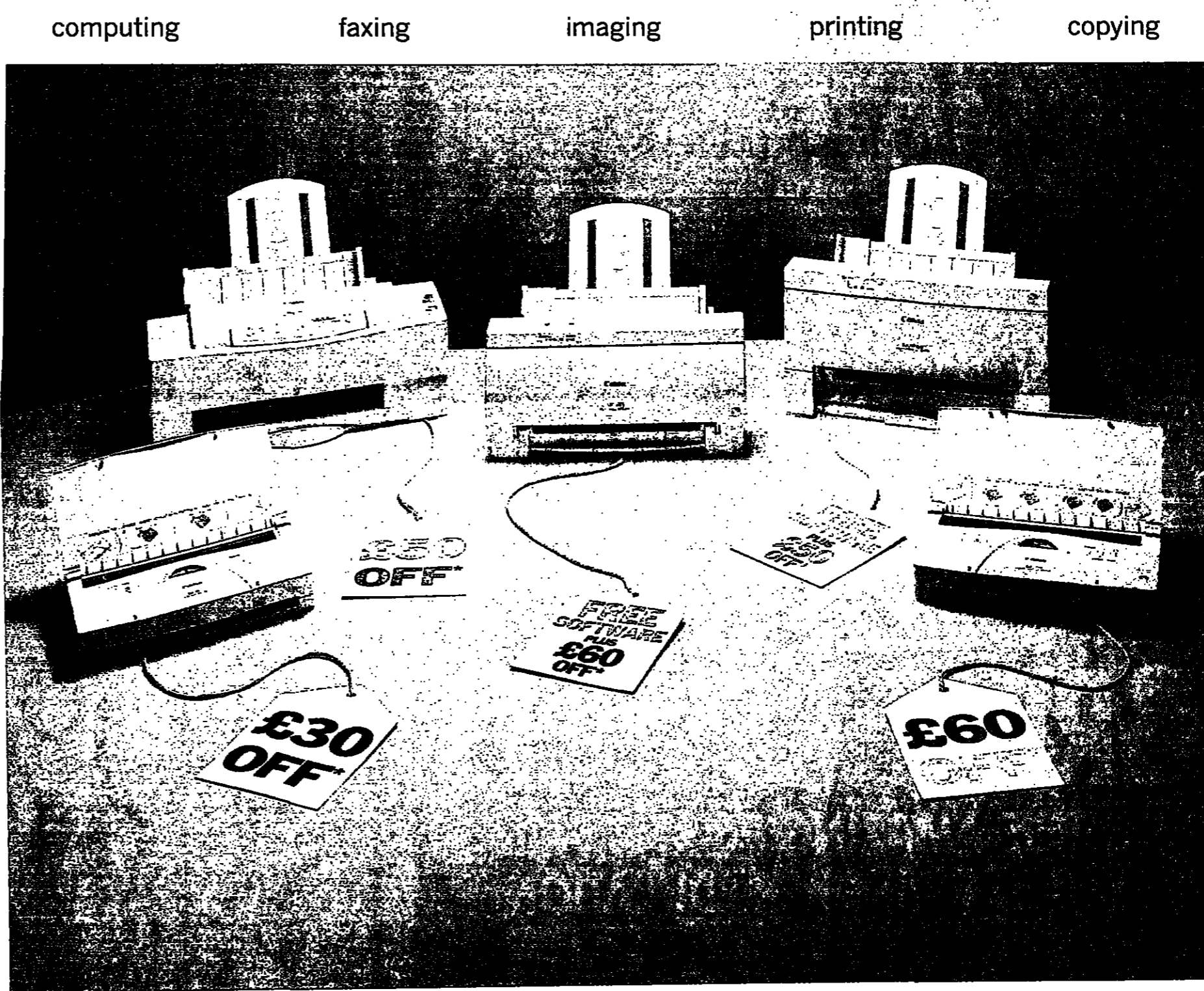
Safeway: British rindless unsmoked back bacon £1.69 for 225g, swede 69p a lb, spring onions 32p a bunch, strawberries £1.49 for 340g.

Sainsbury's: British lamb shoulder bone-in joint £2.49 a kg, tilapia £4.97 a kg, Charlotte potatoes £1.29 a kg, Granny Smith apples 48p a lb.

Somerfield: fresh pork loin steaks £4.73 a kg, cod fillet £1.63 a lb, courgettes 39p a lb, red seedless grapes 99p a lb.

Tesco: sirloin steak £9.89 a kg, salmon steaks £2.95 a lb, runner beans 79p a lb, honey-dew melons 99p each.

Waitrose: boneless chicken breasts £3.49 for 530g, spinach 69p for 250g, Romaine lettuce 59p, luxury stem ginger ice-cream £2.99 for 500g.



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Ciller threatens to 'break hands' of Cypriot protesters

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND MICHAEL EVANS

CYPRUS was bracing itself for another outbreak of violence as mourners gather for the funeral today of the Greek Cypriot killed by Turkish soldiers during clashes in the United Nations buffer zone on Wednesday.

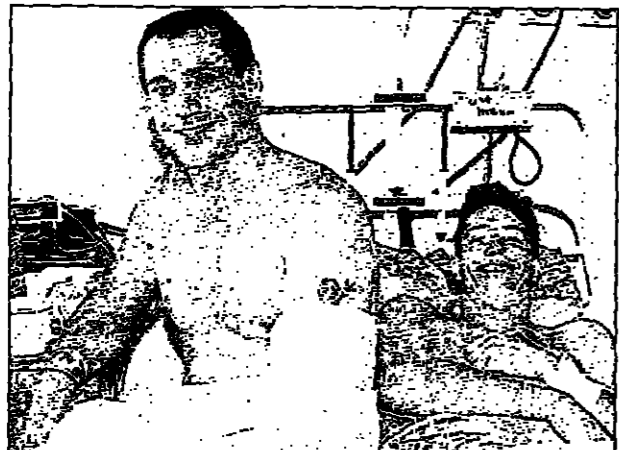
UN peacekeeping troops, including 370 British soldiers, are on alert for the funeral of Solomos Solomou, who was shot as he tried to tear down a Turkish flag. British and UN diplomats tried to defuse the tension as the two British

soldiers wounded in the clashes on Wednesday recovered from their injuries in hospital. In language regarded in London as inflammatory, Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Foreign Minister and former Prime Minister, said Turks would "break the hands" of anyone who insulted their flag. Flying to Cyprus for a one-day visit, Mrs Ciller said: "Nobody lays a finger on the flag... if anyone has the nerve to do that, we will break their hands."

The Turkish Government called on members of the UN Security Council to bring pressure on Cyprus to stop Greek Cypriot demonstrations in the buffer zone. Yesterday, in Turkish-held northern Cyprus, two right-wing parties agreed to set up a coalition government, ending a seven-week political crisis, party officials said. Dervis Eroglu, the leader of the National Unity Party, will become Prime Minister in an administration formed with the Democratic Party of Serdar Denktash, the son of the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash.



UN peacekeepers try during Wednesday's unrest to keep a Greek Cypriot demonstrator from rushing at the Turkish military post in the background



Bombardier Neil Emery, left, and Gunner Jeffrey Hudson recover from their injuries yesterday

Yesterday, a UN official accused the Greek Cypriot police and special forces of doing "virtually nothing" to stop Wednesday's clashes when protesters broke into the UN buffer zone after the funeral of a Greek Cypriot who was killed on Sunday.

Costas Simitis, the Greek Prime Minister, is due to arrive in Cyprus tomorrow. "The Prime Minister wants to make clear that any move by the Turks to the south will immediately mean war with Greece," a senior Greek government official said. Mr Solomou's funeral was

originally intended to be held tomorrow so that Mr Simitis could attend. However, diplomats believe it was brought forward and arranged to be held in the evening to reduce the risk of demonstrations. Despite the bellicose rhetoric from Ankara and Athens, Mrs Ciller and Mr Simitis were expected to urge restraint behind the scenes, diplomats in Nicosia said. The two British soldiers wounded in a hail of bullets on Wednesday were named by

Greek Cypriot police as Bombardier Neil Emery, 29, and Gunner Jeffrey Hudson, 22, both of 39 Regiment Royal Artillery.

Both underwent operations in the British military hospital at RAF Akrotiri in the southwest of the island. "Both are recovering well and are expected to make full recoveries," the Ministry of Defence said in Cyprus.

The ministry said that Bombardier Emery, who is married and comes from New-

castle upon Tyne, and Gunner Hudson, who is single and comes from Plymouth, were in good spirits.

Bombardier Emery received a ricochet wound in the forearm and Gunner Hudson was hit by a high-velocity round through the buttock and out through the hip. Speaking from his hospital bed, Gunner Hudson said he had not been afraid, but as soon as he had heard gunshots he hit the ground. He said: "We were forming a line to stop the

Greek Cypriots advancing. We heard the shots and hit the ground. It was then that I was shot. I knew I had been shot and it certainly hurt a lot."

In the meantime, some British holidaymakers in Cyprus were expressing concern about the clashes. One mother arrived at a British military base with her suitcase and three children, asking for protection. The British High Commission in Nicosia has received dozens of calls but tourists have been told not to

worry. However, callers are being advised to keep away from the buffer zone, particularly around Dherinia, and to follow events on the BBC World Service.

A new commander of the 30,000 Turkish troops in northern Cyprus arrived in the island yesterday to take up his post. General Ali Yalcin is due to replace General Hasan Kundakci at a ceremony tomorrow.

Leading article, page 17

Pope undergoes hospital tests

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

CONCERN for the Pope's health rose yesterday after it was disclosed that he had been taken to hospital on Wednesday for medical checks while holidaying outside Rome.

The Vatican insisted that the health of the pontiff, 76, was "normal for a man of his age". The unscheduled hospital tests have thrown doubt, however, on his planned visits to Hungary and France next month. Some Vatican officials fear the French trip, in particular, will overtax the ailing pontiff because of planned protests by liberal Catholics outraged by his sternly conservative stance on birth control, his opposition to women

priests and the use of condoms to prevent Aids.

The Pope, troubled by recurrent intestinal disorders since Christmas, went on holiday in the Dolomites last month, observing that "the mountain air will do me more good than any doctor". He stayed for two weeks at Lorenzago di Cadore, where he had recuperated in 1992 after an operation to remove a tumour in the colon.

This month, the Pope transferred to his summer residence at Castelgandolfo, in the Alban Hills, to escape the summer heat of Rome. But on Tuesday he missed morning Mass, complaining of "stomach pains", and on Wednesday evening was taken to hospital at nearby Albano.

The hospital said the Pope left after an hour of tests, "in jovial and tranquil mood". Father Ciro Benedetini, the deputy Vatican spokesman, said: "The tests did not show anything noteworthy."

The Vatican had clearly intended that the hospital visit be kept secret. However, the papal entourage was spotted by local people at the hospital.

Yesterday, the Pope appeared as usual at the balcony of Castelgandolfo to lead prayers. Although he offered greetings to pilgrims in seven languages, he appeared tired, and moved stiffly.



The Pope leads pilgrims in prayers yesterday

French holiday snaps ... piranhas

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THERE is a nasty nip in the waters of a southern French holiday spot. The Lac de la Ganguise, popular with swimmers and windsurfers, has been found to be sheltering at least two piranhas.

The first of the predatory South American fish to be landed from the lake near Castelnaudary, 30 miles southeast of Toulouse, was caught after a considerable struggle by a holidaymaker. According to witnesses, it measured an impressive 14in and sported an equally impressive set of teeth.

A second, larger specimen was caught a few days later by

Jean-Marc Simon, a local fisherman, who first spotted the fish near the surface. "I put some live bait on my hook. Five minutes later I brought up this thing," M Simon said. The "thing" in question turned out to be another piranha, this time measuring 18½in.

The second catch prompted an investigation as gamekeepers and fish experts went to the scene. The piranha was measured, sketched and captured on film before being sent to the Natural History Museum in Paris for tests. This is not the first time a piranha has been found in France. In 1991 two piranhas were caught in the Garonne. *Serrasalminus natterii* is a

gregarious creature. It can grow to more than 19in long and live for eight years. In France the fish cost between 50 and 100 francs (£6.35 and £12.70) and are a popular choice for collectors of tropical fish, on condition that they are kept in isolation because of their natural tendency to eat the rest of the tank.

In their natural habitat, the creatures are not vicious. However, if they are forced into smaller lakes in a drought, they can become extremely predatory, even turning to cannibalism. Piranhas will also attack people. Attracted by the smell of blood, a shoal in a feeding frenzy can strip a body bare of flesh in minutes.

The local authorities say that they believe the fish were released into the lake from a local aquarium. "Bathers can continue swimming. Piranhas are dangerous only in shoals," a local official said this week. "In any case, these probably belong to the family of piranhas which are purely vegetarian."

Whether the two piranhas caught in Castelnaudary do indeed belong to the vegetarian branch of the family or to their flesh-eating cousins will not be known until the test results come back from the Natural History Museum.

Bathers may have grown wary, but fishermen dreaming of the catch of a lifetime are turning up in droves.

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Elizabeth leaves them wondering if they've chosen the right Dole

On the night her husband was formally nominated as the Republican presidential candidate, Elizabeth Dole brilliantly completed the week-long transformation of her party's convention into a television show, and of the delegates into a studio audience.

Breaking all precedent, the former Cabinet Secretary and Red Cross boss not only chose to introduce her husband to millions of television viewers, but did so in a manner that must have left Hillary Clinton wondering how she could top such a performance. Robin Dole, 41, Mr Dole's daughter from his first marriage,

SAN DIEGO NOTEBOOK

warmed the convention up with a saccharine speech about how her wonderful Dad used to take her on rollercoaster rides (nowadays they are of the political variety) and got her tickets to a Beatles concert (presumably by pulling strings).

Mrs. Dole then strode on to the stage to a tumultuous reception, but instead of stopping at the podium she descended into the midst of the rabble on the floor where she launched into a cross between the Oprah Winfrey show and *This Is Your Life*.

It was time to tell the world about the true Bob Dole and "the man I love", she said in her beguiling Southern accent. Carrying a cordless microphone, she wandered the floor in a peach-coloured suit introducing a nurse who helped her husband to recover from his war wounds, the widow of the surgeon who helped to repair his shattered shoulder, a quadriplegic who inspired him to establish the Bob Dole Foundation for the disabled.

She told of her husband's private support for a Washington

homeless shelter, of how he hired a fancy restaurant for 35 poor black kids one Thanksgiving Day, and how Senate employees had twice voted him the friendliest senator. She recalled how, before they married, he had felt duty-bound to show his future in-laws the true extent of his heavily disguised war injuries. "Mom said, 'Bob, that's not a problem. It's a badge of honour'."

It was a flawless, riveting performance interrupted at one point by giant video pictures of Mr Dole watching and waving at his wife from his hotel room. When she finished after 15 minutes, the convention erupted and delegates

were left wondering whether it was the right Dole they were about to nominate.

How minutely scripted is this convention? Reporters were given advance copies of Robin Dole's speech, which began with a little joke about how she suspected her father might accept his party's nomination. Unfortunately, someone forgot to remove the stage instruction that followed: "Smile."

The irony of this made-for-television convention is that it is all for the benefit of a candidate who loathes the slickness and packaging of modern political

campaigns. One of Mr Dole's more endearing traits is that he occasionally rebels. The other night, as he was being hustled out of his hotel through a back door, he spotted a room-service waiter on the telephone. He eluded his handlers, shook the waiter's hand and asked who he was speaking to. "My sister, Kim," the waiter replied. "Kim, how you doing?" Mr Dole bellowed down the phone. "This is Bob Dole."

Tony Blair's favourite American journalist landed himself in hot water by cracking a joke about Mr Dole at a convention bar. "There's still

time. Maybe he can expire before the nomination and save the party," said Sidney Blumenthal, who wrote an effusive profile of the Labour leader for the *New Yorker* magazine and hosted a party for him when he visited Washington last April. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, a delegate reported what he took to be a death threat to the police. Nine Secret Service agents arrived and questioned Mr Blumenthal for 45 minutes. Christopher Hitchens, a British journalist, finally took pity on his friend and brought him out a gin and tonic.

MARTIN FLETCHER

Scriptwriter resigns as leader's final act nears

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN SAN DIEGO

BOB DOLE was formally accepting the Republican presidential nomination last night, but preparations for what was widely viewed as the biggest speech of his life were upset when his most inspirational speechwriter walked out in anger.

Mark Helprin, a novelist, flew back to New York after his original draft was mangled by constant re-editing that continued as late as yesterday. It was Mr Helprin who crafted the only memorable speech of Mr Dole's campaign to date, the one with which he announced his resignation from the Senate in May.

Mr Dole was formally nominated for the role he first sought 16 years ago amid tumultuous scenes on the convention floor on Wednesday evening. Last night's acceptance speech represented his last, best chance of selling himself to tens of millions of sceptical Americans watching on television, but whether Mr Dole, a notoriously poor speaker, could rise to the occasion was a matter of intense speculation. The last time he addressed the nation was after President Clinton's State of the Union speech in



REPUBLICAN CONVENTION '96

January and his performance was universally described as awful.

Mr Helprin delivered the first draft on April 22. Mr Dole had tinkered with the text since early last month, trying to adapt its high-flown rhetoric to his more prosaic style, but on Tuesday night he reportedly tossed the text aside and angrily demanded that a big section be rewritten. Two of Mr Dole's old Senate speechwriters were flown in and the next day Mr Helprin quit.

Pasta party for nominee

Castel d'Aiano, Italy: This mountain town where Bob Dole was wounded in the Second World War was cooking up lots of pasta yesterday to celebrate the US presidential nomination for its honorary citizen. A Dixie-

land band was hired to play at the party. Pietro Tondi, the restaurant owner, said he was cooking up a "tonne of pasta" for the party here, 25 miles outside of Bologna. Mr Dole has visited Castel d'Aiano seven times. (AP)

winners, a former Miss America and a Vietnam War hero whose legs had been shattered by a landmine.

More theatrics followed. Mr Dole's nomination was proposed by Senator John McCain of Arizona who momentarily broke down as he recalled Mr Dole's support during the five years he spent in a North Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp.

The nomination was seconded by two high school students who appeared by live satellite link-up from Russell, Kansas, where the entire town had gathered in front of the floodlit courthouse to cheer on their famous son.

Back in the convention hall the Kansas delegation was given the honour of casting the 96th vote required to nominate Mr Dole. As the delegates erupted in wild celebration Mr Dole punched the air in his hotel room, exclaimed "Awwright, awright", hugged his wife and shook hands with the Kemps.

A daily tracking poll yesterday offered less good news for Mr Dole. It showed President Clinton's lead widening by five points to nearly 17 per cent despite Mr Dole's widely acclaimed selection of Mr Kemp and the apparent success of this minutely stage-managed convention.



Bob Dole's wife, Elizabeth, takes to the floor at the convention to extol his virtues in a riveting performance

Dissenters silenced as Republican image-makers massage the media

BY TIM HAMES

COMMENTARY

IT USED to be said that there were two national conventions happening at any time, an event in the conference centre and another on television screens. The Republican affair this year has reduced that number to one, the television occasion.

This week has seen a set of short speeches: only Colin Powell was permitted to exceed 15 minutes, with much of the content devoted to human interest stories of great

achievements by citizens acting on their own without the dead hand of big government. Interspersed between these homilies, and a new technique, are video clips of ordinary Americans endorsing Republican ideas.

The zenith, or nadir, of this approach came on Tuesday when Newt Gingrich, the ideologue House Speaker, was allowed five minutes, outside prime time, in which he extolled a charity that provides dogs to help the handicapped. Republicans have produced a made-for-media rally.

Less than 20 years ago they lasted for four whole days and were devoted to the internal means of the party organisation. The entire platform, often 100,000 words long, would be read to delegates for their approval. The evening sessions were devoted to speeches of 30 minutes or more by senior figures who spoke by right of their position, no matter how dreadful

their oratory. The whole occasion, every minute, was covered by all three major television networks. It was worthy but tedious.

Starting in the 1980s, responding to their ratings, the stations cut back their coverage. This year little more than an hour a day is live, and that punctuated by commercials and commentary. The Republicans under their chairman, Haley Barbour, a former television personality himself, have adapted to that trend. There is barely 10 hours of

total convention time. All of it is designed for viewers, whether on the major networks or those such as CNN that cover far more. The delegates are now pros who have been told not to argue in public and offered detailed advice on their dress sense.

The Republicans have succeeded in getting their scripts across. The main aim was to avoid the mistake of four years ago when the party came across as harsh and doctrinaire, not least because of a bombastic speech by Pat Buchanan. Female voters were particularly repelled.

The objective this time has been to look open. All speeches have emphasised the same storyline: lower taxes, smaller and smarter government, stronger families and the character contrast between Bob Dole and Bill Clinton.

The message is reinforced by the choice of people. On Monday the public saw two former Presidents, Gerald Ford and George Bush, former First Lady Nancy Reagan, and General Colin Powell. A more moving group would be hard to find.

Tuesday brought a white woman Governor, a white woman senator, and a black congressman. Wednesday's prime time featured Mr Dole's wife and daughter before the nominating speeches by John McCain, an Asian American, and Henry Bonilla, a Hispanic congressman.

The US media are not quite sure how to handle this sophistry. An extreme reaction came from ABC's Ted Koppel, host of *Nightline*, a serious

show. He pronounced San Diego to be an "infomercial" rather than real news and returned to Washington.

Virtually all other programmes have tried to place a health warning by emphasising the degree of scripting occurring in their discussion slots. Yet previous evidence, especially from the Reagan era, is that the visual impact is much more powerful for viewers than the sceptical analysis. This has been good television for the Republicans that will have softened their image.

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Klan pair guilty of church attacks

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

TWO members of the Christian Knights of the Ku-Klux-Klan have pleaded guilty to setting fire to two black churches in South Carolina in the first convictions of Klan members in any of the church burnings sweeping the American South.

President Clinton established a Church Arson Task Force last month to investigate the rash of 74 suspicious fires at black churches since January 1985. The inquiry involves about 1,000 officers. Although Mr Clinton has declared that "racial hostility is the driving force" behind the surge in fires at black churches, government officials doubt there is a nationwide conspiracy. So far 40 people - including 14 blacks - have been arrested in connection with 26 arson attacks on black churches in the South.

A detailed survey by the *USA Today* newspaper last month found no evidence of a widespread racist plot. However, clusters of fires in two areas, including North and South Carolina, suggested

localised cases of serial arson. The latest guilty pleas in Charleston, South Carolina, will bolster the argument of civil rights groups such as the Centre for Democratic Renewal that most of the attacks are racially motivated.

Gary Christopher Cox, 22, and Timothy Adron Welch, 24, face up to 55 years in jail after admitting burning down the Mt Zion church in Greeleyville on June 20, 1995, and the Macedonia Baptist Church in nearby Bloomville on the following day. The two men also pleaded guilty to charges of assault and battery with intent to kill when they stabbed a black man on June 16, 1995.

Prosecutors said Cox and Welch both attended meetings of the white supremacist Ku-Klux-Klan where they were told black churches promoted the interests of black people "to the detriment of white persons".

However, Gary White, a lawyer for the Christian Knights, denied that the group had instigated the attacks.

CIA denies director will quit

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE CIA attempted yesterday to refute reports that John Deutch, its director, planned to step down before the end of the year and become the third spy chief to leave office during President Clinton's tenure at the White House.

Friends said Mr Deutch, apparently unhappy with the CIA culture, was now aiming his sights at the Pentagon, an old stamping-ground where he wants to succeed William Perry, the Defence Secretary, in a second Clinton term. The reports, in *The Washington Post*, prompted hollow denials from a CIA official, who claimed the current director "continues to look down the road and into next year".

At Langley, the CIA headquarters, there was little surprise yesterday among those with whom Mr Deutch has spoken openly about a December departure. "He has never been comfortable with the CIA culture and he misses the Pentagon where he was really happy," a CIA colleague said.

Stars shun Clinton's 50th birthday

BY TOM RHODES

ON MONDAY President Clinton will turn 50, entering the potential minefield of the midlife crisis, the religious awakening and perhaps even the career change.

A fund-raising party at Radio City Music Hall in New York on Sunday night promises to be a star-studded event but many Hollywood performers will be missing. Instead, they will be replaced by middle-class

from \$250 (£161) to \$10,000, but for a mere \$100, loyal Democrats can watch the event by satellite at 120 sites.

Hillary Clinton has hired Jeff Margolis, the producer of the Oscars, to oversee the programme, which encompasses the five decades of the President's life. Among the performers will be Tony Bennett, Jon Bon Jovi, Aretha Franklin and Carly Simon, followed by middle-class

friend of the Clintons, is to be mistress of ceremonies.

Also attending will be Candace Bergen, Phil Collins, Harrison Ford, Jodie Foster and Michelle Pfeiffer. Among invitees not attending are Paul McCartney, nursing his sick wife Linda, and Kim Basinger, looking after her baby, Michael Douglas has simply "passed". Barbra Streisand, upset at being up-

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Thomas Cook Foreign Exchange

Women smokers 'face greater cancer risk'

By ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY, NIGEL HAWKES AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

WOMEN smokers are more likely to develop lung cancer than men, according to an Australian study.

They also seem to need fewer cigarettes to do so, the report commissioned by the Australian College of Physicians said.

The Australian claims found little support, however, from Professor Richard Peto, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology at Oxford. "Big studies have shown that women and men have about the same chance of dying of cancer if they smoke the same amount," he said. "I haven't seen the study the Australian claims are based on, but I suspect it will turn out to be a small one. There is pretty good evidence that it cannot be true."

Steve Gourlay, the overseas research fellow who conducted the review, said the study showed that women were more susceptible to smoking-related lung damage than men, making them more likely to fall victim to cancer. He said an American study found that a woman who smoked a packet a day for 40 years, had a cancer risk three times higher than a man smoking the same amount of tobacco.

Other studies had found higher levels of genetic damage in female smokers, which suggested that the same amount of smoke caused more harm to women than men, Mr Gourlay pointed out.

The research also found that women had more difficulty giving up smoking than men. An Australian study showed that 18 per cent of women who smoked



more than 15 cigarettes a day managed to quit the habit, compared with 25 per cent of men.

Professor Peto says, however, that at any given age women appear to be marginally less vulnerable than men to smoking-induced cancer. This advantage disappears, however, because they live longer and are therefore exposed to more

smoke. Nor is it true that women find it harder to give up, according to another ICRF researcher, Dr Martin Jarvis.

He looked at national data for the UK, and found that "in the younger age groups, women are slightly better at giving up. Middle-aged women are not quite as good as middle-aged men, and in the elderly it's about equal. Overall, there's nothing to choose between men and women."

From Bette Davis to Bet Lynch, the female smoker may seem an ideal target for cigarettes designed especially for them. Although long, slender cigarettes seem aimed mainly at women smokers, tobacco manufacturers say this advertising strategy does not pay. A woman's brand choice is driven mostly by price, packaging and taste and far less by advertising.

"Very few brands are launched with women in mind. Most brands are aimed at smokers as a whole, not just women or men," said Clive Turner of the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association.

Virginia Slims is one of the exceptions, the brand having proclaimed that it was made "especially for women because women are dainty and beautiful and sweet and generally different from men".

There are an estimated 1.1 billion smokers in the world, of whom fewer than half are women. Females make up about half the smokers in the Western world, but a substantially lower proportion in developing countries.



Seven men, including four from Hong Kong, are led to execution in Shenzhen, southern China, yesterday after what was said to be the biggest drug trafficking case since the Communists came to power. They had smuggled 1,320lb of heroin

Indian learns not to be lost for words

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S new Prime Minister, H. D. Deve Gowda, addressed the nation for the first time yesterday and understood hardly a word of what he told 950 million people.

He speaks practically no Hindi, the language that he used from the ramparts of the Red Fort for a traditional feel-good speech marking Independence Day. Hardly anybody, relatively speaking, understands Mr Gowda's native tongue, Kannada, which is spoken in the southwestern state of Karnataka.

He wrote his speech in Kannada and had it translated into Hindi, although written in the script of his own language. He has been reading it over and over with the aid of a Hindi teacher to try to get the accent and emphasis right; it turned out to be a flawed performance, but nevertheless impressive for somebody who a few months ago had never uttered a word of India's most widely spoken language.

Before becoming Prime Minister just over two months ago, Mr Gowda was Chief Minister of Karnataka, a small, progressive state, and was almost unknown in national politics. That was hardly surprising; he could not talk to anybody.

He remains handicapped in the Hindi-speaking north and must speak to his Cabinet ministers through translators or stumble along in limited English. English is the lingua franca in a country with so many languages and dialects that nobody knows exactly how many there are — at the last count, there were something over 225 distinct languages, only 17 of which are officially recognised.

Mr Gowda carries a small notepad in which he writes down useful Hindi expressions. The contents of this personal phrasebook of political terminology would doubtless disclose much about the Prime Minister's approach to his job, but he keeps it close to his chest.

He has acquired a Hindi teacher, Brij Mohan Mishra, who enthuses about the Prime Minister's progress. Mr Gowda is learning by rote. "The Prime Minister could not, unlike a schoolboy, sit at home and master the alphabet and grammar," Mr Mishra was quoted as saying. "All he wanted was to understand Hindi and be in a position to use it as and when occasion demanded to meet the obligations of his office." The Prime Minister has decided not to study Hindi's Devanagari script.

Mr Mishra, who speaks Kannada, is accorded the respectful title Masterji by the Prime Minister. The two meet at odd times when Mr Gowda has a gap in his diary. "I have found him so good that he reproduces flawlessly with the same inflection and diction with which I pronounce," Mr Mishra said in his distinctive English.



Deve Gowda: lack of Hindi handicaps him

Peking warns of Japanese militarism

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

ANGERED by a visit last month by Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, to a shrine honouring Japanese war dead, China issued a warning yesterday of a possible resurgence of militarism in Japan and said Tokyo had made only a few "shallow apologies" for war atrocities.

In an editorial marking the 51st anniversary of Japan's surrender at the end of the Second World War, a commentary in *China Daily* said: "We must be on the alert for the possible revival of militarism in Japan."

Accompanied by a cartoon illustrating a skeleton clad in a Japanese Imperial Army uniform stalking the Pacific, a rising sun flag hanging from its rifle, the commentary said of Japanese officials: "Their sincerity is still questionable."

Of Mr Hashimoto's recent visit to the Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo where the souls of Japan's war dead, including convicted war criminals, are said to repose, the editorial noted: "Hashimoto has now set an example that could lead to a militarist revival in Japan."

Mr Hashimoto was the first in office since 1985 to visit the Shinto place of worship, where he said it was time for Japan to stop apologising for honouring its fallen soldiers.

"Sticking to this unapologetic stance and denying historical facts will only lead Japan to isolation," Chinese newspapers said, pointing out that several Japanese politicians in recent years had tried to whitewash Japan's war atrocities.

Mr Hashimoto's action has drawn criticism throughout East Asia, and has prompted adverse comments from Singapore to Hong Kong, both of which suffered during Japanese bombing and occupation.

"The sense of a superpower is swelling in the minds of some ordinary Japanese," China's state-run Xinhua news agency said.

Aborigines threaten Olympic boycott

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

ABORIGINES threatened yesterday to disrupt the 2000 Olympics in Sydney after the Australian Government said it planned big reductions in the Aboriginal share of funds.

The £200 million cuts, to be announced officially in next week's Budget, will be spread over four years and mainly affect business schemes and community programmes set up to help the country's 400,000 Aborigines. The Aboriginal Affairs Ministry said health, housing, education and employment assistance would not be affected, but community leaders branded the cuts as "a spear in the heart" of self-determination. They have said there will be

2000 Olympics if Canberra does not change its mind. Appeals to African and Asian countries would be made.

Terry O'Shane, the Queensland Aboriginal leader, who called John Howard, the Prime Minister, a racist for his actions, said: "This Budget indicates that reconciliation is gone: it's a joke." He said the Olympics would be used to focus worldwide attention on the plight of Australia's native people. "We are putting the wider Australian community on notice... 2000 will not be a year they will remember with great joy and pride."

The cuts come after increasing concern about alleged wasting of funds. Millions of



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Rebels' wounded chief dreams of Russian-free city

SHAMIL BASAYEV, the Chechen rebel commander who masterminded the lightning raid to recapture Grozny, sat in his dingy underground bunker nursing a fresh wound and plotting his next move against the Russians.

For a man whose very name strikes terror into the hearts of many Russians, the guerrilla commander appeared surprisingly soft-spoken yesterday during a visit to his command post near the front line in central Grozny. But his message was as threatening as any of the militants fighting under his command.

Despite the continuing blast of tank and mortar rounds and frequent exchanges of automatic fire, residents said the city was relatively quiet and that the cease-fire, announced this week, gradually appeared to be holding. Chechen claims to have seized 90 per cent of the devastated city seemed accurate. A few pockets of Russians are still holding out, but without fresh supplies, the rebels expect them to accept their offer or surrender any day.

The last vestiges of the pro-Moscow Government have been all but erased. The police post at the railway station was wiped out in what was clearly a dramatic battle, while the refurbished prosecutor's office

In a frontline bunker, Shamil Basayev tells Richard Beeston that Moscow's influence must be purged for peace in Grozny

and Supreme Court building were still smouldering. Mr Basayev, instantly recognisable from his shaven head and bushy black beard, insisted that the battle was not over. Peace, he said, would only come when the last Russian had left Grozny. "I don't trust any Russian and, as I believe Churchill once said, an agreement with them is not worth the paper it is written on," said the guerrilla chief, who was shot in the left



Basayev: "I do not like fighting at all"

four two days ago and now inspects his forces on crutches. Asked about the role of General Aleksandr Lebed, the Kremlin's new troubleshooter on Chechnya, Mr Basayev said there was "some hope" of a peace deal but that he still had deep misgivings.

Given his mistrust of Russians, Mr Basayev said he was preparing future operations in the event of the truce collapsing. His plan is to starve out the surrounded Russian posts in the city and to organise the siege and capture of the two main Russian military bases at the airports of Khankala and Severny outside Grozny.

Mr Basayev, a former land management student in Moscow, for the first time gave details about the campaign he masterminded and led on August 6. He said the operation to attack Grozny, drive out the Russians and hold the city had been finalised in May, but it was put off after the peace deal with the Kremlin during President Yeltsin's re-election campaign. After the Russians resumed attacks last month, it was decided to reactivate the



Chechen mothers weep at their plight as their children are served a meal of bread and soup at a temporary refuge outside Grozny

operation. "There were 1,500 fighters involved in the operation and we hit the city from three sides," he said. "The battle for the city was won in the first half-hour of combat."

Mr Basayev, who estimated that Russian losses ran into the thousands, conceded that Moscow's superior forces could retake the city. "It will cost them between 10,000 and 15,000 lives but they could probably do it in a month," he

said. "However, a month later we could come back and retake the city."

The Chechen guerrilla chief, who lost several members of his family during the 20-month war, first came to prominence in 1991 when he hijacked a Russian passenger aircraft to Turkey, where he surrendered but negotiated his release home.

Last year his notoriety spread worldwide when he led

a bloody hostage raid in the southern Russian town of Budennovsk, in an operation that left 120 people dead. He again escaped.

Now back in Grozny, having once more humiliated the Russians, Mr Basayev speaks wistfully about one day returning to a peaceful life in Chechnya with his family. "I hope this conflict will end quickly," he said. "I do not like fighting at all."

Lebed returns to Grozny

Moscow. Expressing support for a new peace accord, General Aleksandr Lebed, the Russian security chief, arrived in Chechnya for the second time in a week yesterday (Thomas de Waal writes). He is armed with new powers to deal with the crisis. Speaking to reporters outside the ruined city of Grozny,

he raised the stakes in his policy battle with hardliners who want the war to continue. "The President [Boris Yeltsin] is tired of war," he said. His immediate task is to enforce a proper ceasefire in Grozny, the Chechen capital, where several thousand rebel fighters and soldiers are still firing at each other.

Nervy Juppé moves to deny rift with bank

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, emphatically denied there was any conflict between the Government and the Bank of France this week, as he repeated his Maastricht mantra in a further attempt to calm turbulent markets. But the fact that M Juppé made the announcement in the middle of his annual holiday, an institution almost as sacrosanct as economic union in French official thinking, is a clear sign that with the single currency deadline approaching and the French economy in the doldrums, relations between the Government and the central bank are far from harmonious.

The franc tumbled last week amid speculation that calls for legal action against former directors of the loss making Credit Lyonnais bank represented a deliberate attempt to undermine Jean-Claude Trichet, the governor of the Bank of France, who has been the target of mounting criticism in government circles. As the

former director of the Treasury, M Trichet was responsible for overseeing state-owned banks when Credit Lyonnais plunged into the red in the early 1990s.

But Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, has denied that his demand for a full investigation to find those responsible for the banking debacle was an effort to weaken the governor of the Bank of France. "Jean-Claude Trichet has never been implicated in this affair," M Arthuis said this week in an interview with Paris Match.

On Wednesday, M Juppé described the currency fluctuations as a "storm in a teacup" and insisted "there is no conflict whatever between the Government and the Bank of France. Each is doing its job. The bank is independent."

But it is precisely the bank's autonomy, and M Trichet's rigid monetary stance, that is believed to have irked the Government. In his Bastille Day speech last month, Presi-

dent Chirac questioned whether M Trichet had sufficiently monitored Credit Lyonnais as Treasury director and sharply criticised the high levels of interest rates.

M Juppé's denials of a rift have helped to calm the markets, at least temporarily, but insiders say that there is little love lost between M Chirac and the central banker appointed under the previous government.

Analysts say the President would like to see lower short-term interest rates to boost economic activity, increase tax revenue and cut back the deficit in time for economic union, while M Trichet, the prime defender of the "franc fort" policy, is deeply committed to protecting the currency and lending off inflation.

M Trichet was appointed in 1993 to head the newly independent Bank of France and however much the President objects to his policy of gradual rate cuts, he does not have the power to remove him.

WORLD SUMMARY

Passenger flight to Sarajevo

Sarajevo: The battle-scarred Sarajevo airport, which served as the Bosnian capital's lifeline throughout much of the war, opened for commercial flights yesterday for the first time in four years (Stacy Sullivan writes).

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, and President Izetbegovic of Bosnia presided over the airport's opening ceremony after the first commercial Air Bosnia plane touched down on the shell-pocked runway. "This is a new symbol of this city's reintegration with the rest of the world," Mr Christopher said.

35 killed at Peru firework display

Lima: An electrical cable brought down by a misfired rocket electrocuted 35 people, some of whom burst into flames, as they watched a fireworks display in the southern Peruvian city of Arequipa. Electricity surged through the bodies of the people packed on to a bridge to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the founding of Arequipa on Wednesday night. Only 12 of the dead have been identified and some were burned beyond recognition. (AP)

Bangkok leader silences daughter

Bangkok: Banham Silpa-archa, the embattled Prime Minister of Thailand, yesterday dragged his daughter from in front of television cameras as she tried to talk about his political crisis. "There are troubles plaguing Dad and I want my father to retire from politics as soon as possible. I myself am also fed up with..." Kanchana Silpa-archa, an MP, was saying as she was interrupted. (Reuters)

Zambia activists tried for treason

Eight pro-democracy campaigners on trial in Zambia for treason, which carries the death penalty, said government agents carried out bombings to discredit their party before this year's elections (Chris Broadhurst writes). The eight allegedly back the "Black Mamba", a clandestine group that has admitted a bomb attack at Lusaka airport.

Abacha sacks all state bosses

Lagos: General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's ruler, has cemented his position by dismissing all 30 state administrators. The change is the most sweeping at state level since General Abacha took power in 1993. The administrators have been replaced by military ranking

Yeltsin picks new economic chief

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

IN A move that will gladden Western investors in Russia, Vladimir Potanin, a young and dynamic commercial banker, was made economic supreme yesterday in the first post-election reshuffle.

Mr Potanin, 35, one of a new generation of private bankers, will be a new First Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy, charting the overall course of economic reform. He will be directly responsible for working with the International Monetary Fund on the implementation of its \$8 billion (£5 billion) loan to Russia.

Mr Potanin is one of a

group of economists who were never involved in the old Soviet command economy. He did not formally study banking but within three years made Onexsimbank one of the most successful commercial banks in the country.

"He is inexperienced in terms of government and he is quite young," said one Western diplomat. "But as head of Onexsimbank, in three years he has already proved that he is a tough and effective operator."

On the debit side, Mr Potanin is reputed to be a political insider who is closely tied to many top officials.

Some critics said his appointment was a symptom of an alliance between commercial sectors and government, which are dividing the spoils of privatisation.

Alongside Mr Potanin there will be other two deputies to Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister: Aleksei Bolshakov, a rather colourless technocrat, and Viktor Ilyushin, President Yeltsin's closest adviser for 20 years. Another new arrival from the Kremlin is Aleksandr Livshits, who takes on probably the toughest job in government, Finance Minister with responsibility for the budget.



Potanin: rapid rise as influential banker

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A child torn between two worlds

The woman he calls mummy wants him back with her in London. His natural father says ten-year-old Sifiso is happy in South Africa. Here both parties tell their story

Three months ago there were harrowing scenes at Heathrow airport when Sifiso Mahlangu, a ten-year-old Zulu boy, refused to board a plane to South Africa. For the past four years he had lived in Britain with Salome Stopford, a white woman whom he called "Mummy", and her three daughters at her luxurious four-bedroom flat in Maida Vale, north London. Mrs Stopford had hoped to adopt Sifiso, but in April this year the House of Lords ruled that he must be returned to his natural parents, and would not allow a delay while the case went to the European Court of Human Rights. This extraordinary story begins in South Africa in 1986, in Brakpan, a town 20 miles from Johannesburg. Selina and Charles Mahlangu worked as live-in maid and chauffeur to Mrs Stopford and her husband, a wealthy Afrikaner. Mrs Stopford became fond of Sifiso and allowed him to stay at the house, rather than sending him to his grandparents' home (a common practice under apartheid). She also paid for his education. In

1992 Mrs Stopford, by now a widow, decided to move to England, and asked Sifiso's parents if she could take him too. They agreed on the condition that contact would be maintained through letters, and they would be given prepaid tickets to visit their son in England twice a year. By 1994, the letters had petered out, the tickets had not arrived, and Mrs Stopford had applied to adopt Sifiso. Mr Mahlangu contacted Black Sash, a South African civil rights organisation. Newspapers there took up the case and a magazine offered to buy the parents' story. Sifiso was never given the opportunity to speak in court. An expert in child psychology gave his opinion that Sifiso might never recover from being separated from the woman he called "Mummy". The court was also told that Sifiso no longer spoke Zulu. Before he finally departed, Sifiso told how, on a trial visit to see his parents, he had slept in the same bed as his mother, and bathed using a bucket. Mrs Stopford insists that Sifiso is unhappy. Mr Mahlangu denies this. The debate continues.



Salome Stopford: "My biggest fear was that Phiso might think I had abandoned him because he didn't have any letters or phone calls from me"

SALOME STOPFORD'S STORY

Sitting in the drawing room of her luxury London flat, Salome Stopford looks at a recent picture of her "adoptive son", Sifiso. "Isn't that a terrible picture? All the life and sparkle has gone out of his face. He looks so old. That's the saddest picture I have ever seen," she says. She remains adamant that what happened at Heathrow was "legalised abduction", and that she has strong reasons to fear for Sifiso's welfare. For eight weeks after he left for South Africa, she heard nothing from him at all. His father, Charles Mahlangu, had, she says, given her a promise that if Sifiso were not happy after six months he would be allowed to return home. "Charles also promised

me that Phiso would telephone me on arrival the next day. I told him that Phiso had a BT chargecard and it wouldn't cost him a thing." Yet for eight weeks, she says, she heard nothing. "I couldn't sleep at night, I was so worried about him. We didn't go out of the house for weeks in case he phoned," she recalls. She wrote and received no reply. Then she contacted the Official Solicitor and was told that if she sent her letters to Sifiso to his office unsealed they would be sent to Mr Mahlangu's solicitors for approval. "If they found them acceptable, they would send them on. After about a week they phoned to say that the letters were OK. I was then told: 'There is one little detail

— you signed them "love mummy". "I broke down and sobbed. I said, what do you expect me to put Salome or Mrs Stopford? I said that if I did that, the child would feel that I had abandoned him totally. "My biggest fear at the time was that Phiso might think that I had abandoned him because he didn't have any letters or phone calls from me. The girls and I are at home and we have each other. He's all alone and has got nobody to talk to." To make it worse, the reports she had from South Africa were that Sifiso was being moved around by his parents and that he had

disappeared. "Some family friends who grew up with the girls and knew Phiso called to see him after he arrived. There were two enormous guards on the door who wouldn't let them in. The next day they went back and the house was empty." Finally, after an eight-week silence, Sifiso did call. "I was over the moon. His first words were 'Mummy. I want to come home'. But her relief was mixed with anxiety that he was not being looked after properly. What she hears of his new life in their regular chats makes her extremely anxious. "The child phones me from 6,000 miles to find where his father

is because he's not collected him from school. He's not going home after school. He's on the streets with no supervision with a lot of money on him. I know Charles is giving Phiso 10 per cent of the family income for pocket money. Phiso knows it's not right and has said, 'He's trying to buy me'. Mrs Stopford also worries that Sifiso is being exploited. She says that Mr Mahlangu has tried to sell his story and that Phiso has had time off school to attend an interview for a TV commercial. But still, she says, social workers are not listening to Sifiso. "Phiso refused to speak to a social worker in South

Africa who had to prepare a report on him. He said: 'Mummy, I don't want to speak to the social workers. They want to keep me here.' I reassured him that she was there to help him." Now she feels these reassurances were misplaced. "I've just received her report. It is superficial and states that he has settled in well and is happy. It fails to mention what I know that he told her very definitely — that he wants to come home. "I've let him go. He's had the experience and now I feel it's time somebody started listening to him and his needs. I'll listen to him — if he tells me to carry on fighting, I will. Whatever he wants I'll support him." And then she adds: "I re-

member when I was a child, wondering if you could love an adopted child as much as your own. The answer is yes." As we stroll around Paddington Recreational Ground where Sifiso rode on his mountain bike and played with his friends, it is clear how much she misses him. Mrs Stopford now pins her hopes on Mr Mahlangu standing by his promise to return Sifiso to live with the Stopfords if the boy is unhappy — a promise which she says he repeated on South African television only this week. In the meantime, she sends cards to Sifiso on which she draws a circle. "He knows it represents my love — it has no beginning and no end." BEVERLY GOLDEN

CHARLES MAHLANGU'S STORY

Earlier this week Charles Mahlangu was reported in South Africa as saying that his son would return to England for educational reasons. He did not, however, give a date, and when he spoke to *The Times* yesterday, he appeared — not for the first time — unsure and confused. Discovering how Sifiso really feels is still more difficult, not least because his father would not allow me near him. When I arrived yesterday morning at City Driving School in Brakpan, 20 miles east of Johannesburg, where Mr Mahlangu is employed as a driving instructor, Sifiso, dressed in a neat school uniform, appeared a picture of happiness. Smiling broadly and giggling he played outside the entrance to the office with a friend. Gazing through the window, Mr Mahlangu sighed and said: "You see, the boy is happy." Mr Mahlangu acknowledges that he promised Sifiso he would consider returning him to England if he had not settled after six months. But he says Mrs Stopford's recent behaviour has complicated the situation and is non-committal about the boy's future. He is upset that she has taken legal action without giving the boy time to settle. "That child is not a European child, he is my child. She has to come to me and talk to me. If she goes to court I will say no." Shaking his head he added: "At the present he's still confused. I'm confused. It is too early."



Sifiso Mahlangu photographed in South Africa in May

Mr Mahlangu has been angered by Mrs Stopford's failure to consult him and remains deeply suspicious of her. Her accusation that he is trying to buy off the child has infuriated him. Mr Mahlangu levels the same charge against her. He claims she recently sent money for Sifiso to the boy's headmaster, via a British journalist, and cannot hide his disgust. He confronted Mrs Stopford on the issue earlier this week. "I will use this to destroy her plans," he says curtly. Central to her adoption claims is the belief that she can provide a better education and life for the child. While Mrs Stopford lives in an expensive flat in Maida Vale, Mr Mahlangu and his wife have lived for the past few years in

Tsakane, a township near Brakpan, populated by 20,000 souls who generally live in small brick houses and rickety tin shacks. Many homes on the dusty, often unnamed streets do not have running water and electricity. Mr Mahlangu has been in the habit of exaggerating his circumstances. After Sifiso returned to England his parents claimed to be living at a prosperous-looking residence, but it belonged to a friend. Recently, though, the family bought a new four-roomed brick house in a new housing extension in the township. Mr Mahlangu clearly resents suggestions that England is better, and says Mrs Stopford has used her skin colour to manipulate the situation. "I don't regret being black," he says. "I had to live that life. It's her good luck to be white and rich." Mr Mahlangu gleefully produces a letter from his solicitors in London. It contains a glowing report from his school headmaster which refers to how Sifiso has settled into his new school in Brakpan, and

also a report from social workers which speaks warmly about the way Sifiso has adjusted to family life, speaks Zulu with his mother, and assists around the house. In addition, the report highlights how the parents' joint income — Selina, his wife, works as a maid on 1,998 rands (£296) per month — adequately covers the bills. It says Sifiso has his own room in the house with a bed and, although the parents are still looking for a cupboard, "he is comfortable and likes spending time there". To Mr Mahlangu's evident delight the reports referred to how the

A LETTER TO ENGLAND

I 1996-07-20
Dear Mummy and
Sis How are
you? I want
to come home
I miss you so much
can I come
home I miss you
so much I
can't say.

I want
to come
home because
I miss you
and friends
I just want
to come home

come
home to
my things
and family
I love you

lots of
love from
Phiso

I love
you 10 times
more than
you say

I love
you 10 times
more than
you say

Above are the six pages of a letter Sifiso wrote in July this year to Salome Stopford and her daughters in London, addressing it to "Dear Mummy and Sis"

parents had gone out of their way to make his life happy. "You see the truth," he says. Mr Mahlangu says he just wants to do what is best for the child and is only interested in his happiness. He feels it is important that Sifiso learns about his roots and culture. He says his wife is totally opposed to the boy returning to England even for a visit, but he is keeping an open mind. "You must never say never. Sifiso is leading his own life. I'm leading my life. I don't want to close the gate on my boy." INIGO GILMORE

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The drive to prove something has kept me going

David Blunkett feels he can change the world

'The drive to prove something has kept me going'

A steely David Blunkett feels impelled to change the world

David Blunkett: the name could be from a 19th-century novel. His life story is a moral fable. He was born when his mother, a factory worker, was 43. At four, he was sent away to a school for the blind in Shropshire. When he was 12, his father fell into a vat of boiling water at work and died. His mother had a struggle to get any pension at all from the Gas Board.

Mr. Blunkett was driven by ambition: to pass exams, despite a headmaster who thought exams unnecessary; to go to university (Sheffield, to read politics) and to change the world. He might have become a Methodist minister, but by the age of 32,



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

man must be neat — is a crank-shaft made of Sheffield steel. Mr Blunkett needs to be unwaveringly steely. He was almost scuppered by the Blair and Harman school choices; everyone felt sorry for him. "I've deliberately set aside the private choices of colleagues," his stock response runs, "and concentrated on defending our policies. That's my job." Twenty out of 23 Tory Cabinet ministers had a child at private school, he added: "There are things taken for granted that the Tories do, that we cannot do. People actually expect more of us."

That day's ICM poll showed a reduced lead for Labour. "It's a strange world," he mused. "I fear memories are short, and the tax in-

just after his mother died of cancer, he was elected leader of Sheffield City Council.

August 1996, 17 years on. Through his office window near Sheffield's City Hall comes music from a funfair. At the door lies Lucy, with her glossy black curls and brown eyes, his guide dog. David Blunkett, in his fiftieth year, Shadow Secretary for Education and Employment, does not rock the Blair boat. In his well-cut suit, he is tanned and feeling "much more personable" after a holiday in Majorca with his three sons, aged 19, 16 and 13. They are "pleasant young men who have not gone astray" but the modern teenager's capacity for idleness amazes him. When he was a lad not even blindness could stop him from cycling, tobogganing, rowing, playing cricket and football. In Majorca he hired a tandem.

"The drive to prove something to myself as well as to others," as he writes in his moving memoirs, *On A Clear Day*, "has kept me going all my life."

On his tidy desk — a blind

there to lift horizons. The vast majority of students can do it, given the inspiration, I've done it myself." (He taught surly bricklayers: a baptism of fire.) "The only way out of inequality is through education; or you end up filling shelves in a Meadowhall supermarket."

He wants to attract mature people into teaching: "People who have lived a bit, been successful in other fields." I recall that John Patten had the same idea, but the teaching unions blocked it. Mr Blunkett says there will be no threat to serving teachers because we are going to have a teacher shortage when pupil-teacher ratios are restored.

On the council estate where he grew up, there was neighbourliness, a sense of belonging. But then people had jobs and stability. Unemployment undermined all that. "We have to make getting up in the morning and going to work the normal pattern of life again. We have to ensure that young men are attractive to young women for more than a night, a reasonable bet for the future, to bring up children

together in a family unit." The family unit? Hard to legislate for. "On the contrary, just as economic policies can unpick the social fabric, as the poll tax did, you can impose policies that weave the fabric back again."

His marriage, which survived for 17 stormy years, was never going to work, he says now, and he acknowledges in his book that people sometimes go into politics "to compensate for the lack of satisfaction in their private lives."

When he joined the Sheffield Labour Party — "tedious smoke-filled meetings that bored the bum off you" — they did not bother to deliver leaflets to owner-occupied houses. There is no place for those defeatist attitudes now: "We have to appeal to *Daily Mail* readers as well as to *Daily Mirror* readers. Many of them have the same hopes." He lives alone, and cooks for



David Blunkett: "I've set aside the private choices of colleagues and concentrated on defending our policies. That's my job"

Hey Sean, let's party

Joseph Connolly meets the stars at Edinburgh's hottest bash. At least, that's what he had planned

I was supposed to be the hottest ticket in town — the one big party of the Edinburgh Festival that anyone who was even hoping one day to be almost someone simply had to attend. People, I was told, would kill for a ticket — and I didn't have one.

All the ballyhoo surrounded the huge and much vaunted bash to launch the fiftieth annual film festival, and one of the reasons everyone around was salivating was the thick and clinging rumour that it was to be graced by no less a presence than St Sean of Connery — generally held to be the greatest and most famous Scotsman since time began.

My esteemed literary agent, Giles Gordon, lives in Edinburgh, and of course he had a ticket, being a Scot second in fame and greatness only to Connery himself. So would I like to come along? Every-

one from the world of film and TV would be there, so I said: "Sure, cool, groovy."

At the entrance to the imposing Victorian pile on Princes Street where the thrash was, we understood, already straining at the seams with fame and greatness, Giles showed me the ticket for the very first time. Alarm bells sounded: it was both mass and horribly produced, printed in red on white, and exhorted the guest to wear "a touch of gold" (oh, that touch of raff). More to the point, nowhere was there an indication that the ticket might admit two, a point the burly bouncer was quick to seize on. "You can go in," he said unsmilingly to Giles, "but this geezer is out, son."

Had it not been for an astonishing bit of sleight of hand by the arts correspondent of this very newspaper (Dalya Alberge, who is now in my will), out I doubtless should have been. As it was, I was in.

The grandeur of the building's exterior quickly gave way to the largest and most hideous gymnasium in Europe, lit-hi and cranked up to sauna heat, one's welcoming drink being a plastic specimen cup awash with a quarter inch of Drambuie.

Wow, I remember thinking, let the good times roll! Where are all the famous people then? There! Over there with his back to us at that table — that's him, isn't it? *That's Sean* — bald head, white and grisly beard, 007 35 years old, has to be, I'll tell you why I doubted it — that dozen of paparazzi, Richard Young, was sitting by the entrance, his back to the entrance, camera at his feet, staring wide-eyed at his complimentary thimbleful of the cup that cheers.

I have never before seen him sit, nor cease to scan the arriving faces; as for his camera, I had assumed it to be welded to his fingers.

"Where's Sean then, Richard?" I asked. "He was here, earlier — for about two seconds," replied Richard. The lookalike turned out to be Sean's younger brother Neil: pretty much of a ringer (in this light, anyway) except that Neil has a grey and stringy ponytail.

By this time, the noise created by hundreds and hundreds of absolute nobodies made it necessary for Giles and me to shout at each other. We were shouting about drink. Now get this: the bar — about a quarter of a mile over there, charged for drinks — "Champagne £12," said the sign. We ordered a bottle and were presented with more plastic cups and a Spanish cava and a bill for £18.

But hold everything — that's a great and famous Scotsman, I'm sure of it. Where? There, just beyond that girl in purple throwing up — that's Sir David Steel, that is; but why is he dressed up as Captain Hornblower, buttoned up to the neck in navy wool, and bedecked with serious amounts of heavy gold braid? Young shot off a half-hearted snap or two and Sir David solemnly assured Giles and myself that the uniform was that of a Privy Counsellor.

The invitation stated that the party would go on until 4am, but mercifully the booze ran out at one, whereupon Giles and I retired to the tranquillity of the Balmoral Hotel. Truly, sometimes the place to be is somewhere else entirely.

Asylum bids ros after leg judgment

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Saving the heritage from ourselves

Peter Mandler says the English have been remarkably careless of historic buildings until recently

THINGS

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Michael Gove on how the Defence Secretary was caught in the crossfire in his own backyard

Mr Portillo and his burghers

Michael Portillo has not prospered from property deals. From the privatisation of army homes, through the doubts about the future of Admiralty Arch and the Royal Naval College at Greenwich to the latest summer squall over the sale of his constituency headquarters to McDonald's, the Defence Secretary has found controversy written into every contract. Ironically, for a man with a taste for the fight, he has been defending himself in positions dug by others.

election, Admiralty Arch's future and the fate of Greenwich were matters that lay within the competence, if that is the right word, of John Gummer and Virginia Bottomley as much as Mr Portillo. But he served as air raid shelter for his colleagues. Now Mr Portillo is taking the flak for colleagues closer to home but even less biddable than those he faces across the Cabinet table.

Mr Portillo decidedly uneasy. Yet despite his concerns about the event, the association insisted on pressing ahead, because, then as now, its initiative would make money. Then, as now, he swallowed his doubts, although he could not hide his discomfort. The association made its money, but Mr Portillo paid the price.

Not only did he endure bad publicity, but his relations with his agent and some association officers became strained. Two of those most closely associated with the McDonald's deal — his agent, Malcolm Tyndall, and chairman, Lionel Zetter — were two of those most annoyed by events around the anniversary. Mr Tyndall, an unapologetic energetic and enterprising constituency agent, has long-term political ambitions and is an admirer of John Redwood.

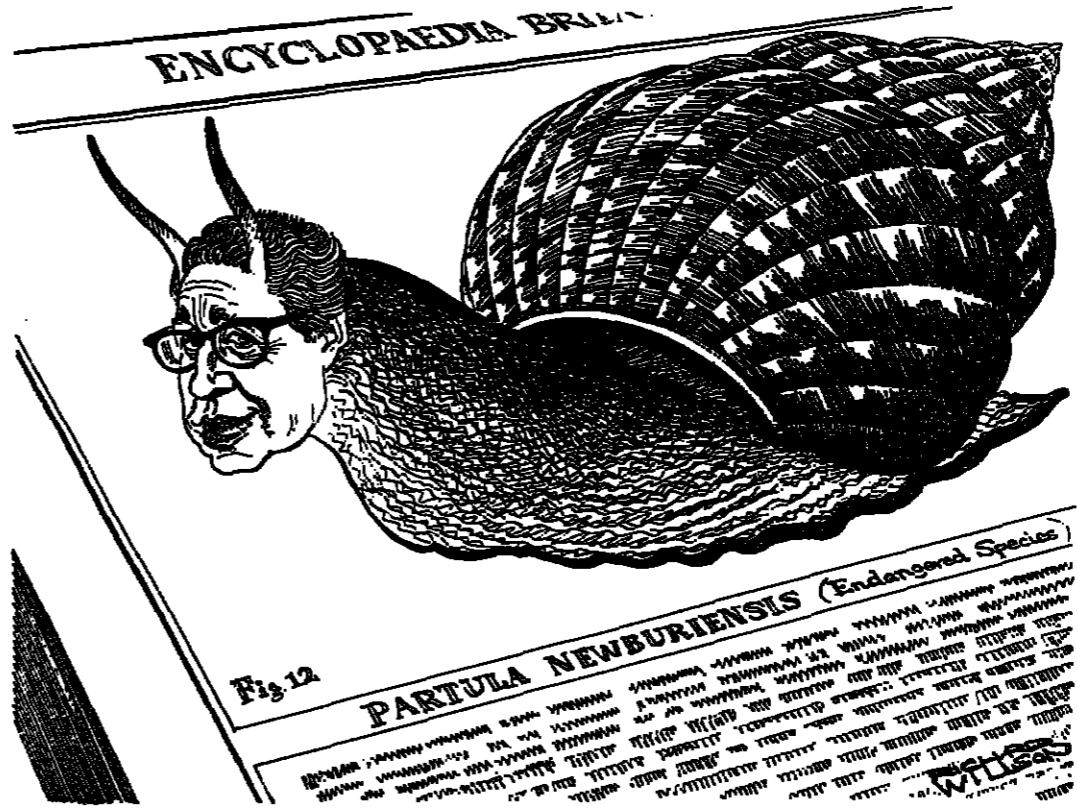
His capacity to win the argument, and win over doubters, ensured that the privatisation of married quarters went ahead. More important, in a straight fight with Kenneth Clarke on defence spending, he secured the settlement the Forces wanted. The skill with which he fought those high political battles has confirmed him as a powerful player at the Cabinet table.

Coming out of my shell

Thanks to the Newbury constabulary I now know quite a lot about snails

A week or two ago, *Times* readers (to say nothing of the *Times* writers) opened the paper to find a most remarkable photograph. Well over a hundred men, all wearing flak-jackets, and nearly half of them being police, were surrounding a giant earth-mover, clearly the target, though what the target was to be was anyone's guess.

they asked for, it was true: they are going to have a thousand square metres of their own, and their spokesman whines "There is little chance the snails will survive in their new habitat."



Yes of course, to start with it was yet more of "Down with the Newbury bypass", but some of them had looked about them and seen a different horizon, and for a moment the bypass was forgotten, because they had turned their eyes on a sight which must have given them not only pleasure but the warmth of wonder and indeed a touch of humility. They had discovered that the hundred policemen were there not only for the bypass and the fighting, but also for the tiniest and slowest creature in Christendom — a snail.

So I looked up "Snails" in an encyclopaedia, and in contrast to Abelard and Heloise you will remember that they "read no more that day". I read voraciously from morning to night, knowing full well that I am just as ignorant of birds as snails. But that is the point: I am here to learn. And my tutor (the *Britannica*) has started well, as my eyebrows show:

snail is so intriguing, what shall we say if we go on to feathered creatures? I turn to the birds, knowing full well that I am just as ignorant of birds as snails. But that is the point: I am here to learn. And my tutor (the *Britannica*) has started well, as my eyebrows show:

know, I have got from the bottom of the ladder. And that is why I was so transfixed when that snail became an entire page of snails. And I am also going to be transfixed when I come among the birds. Yes, I am as ignorant as that — that being

if their car has broken down — can fix it? I offer a guess: one in thirty. One in fifty? The gentleman at the back, do I hear One in a hundred? I do not know how the Internet works, and I am too old now to learn. But what about the millions and millions like me, who can just about poke around in the bowels of the mystery? I wasn't joking when I said that the snail had opened my eyes, and to prove it, I take, quite at random, the octopus. Did you, dear reader, know that the size of the octopus runs from 2 in across (the smallest) to 18 in (the largest)? And did you know that the octopus has a large head, contractile arms, and a mouth that has a pair of sharp, horny beaks and a file-like organ for drilling shells and rasping away flesh?

Among thieves

BURGLARS have raided the London home of the late Sir Robert Stephens, favourite thespian of the Prince of Wales, and stolen the insignia of the Knight Bachelor presented to him by the Queen last year.



Proud Sir Robert with gong

of her most precious memento. "They took the video and a couple of other unimportant items, but they have also taken the gong," she says. "It is the maddest sort of burglary. It was horrible when I discovered it had gone. I just felt dreadful that I hadn't got it in the bank."

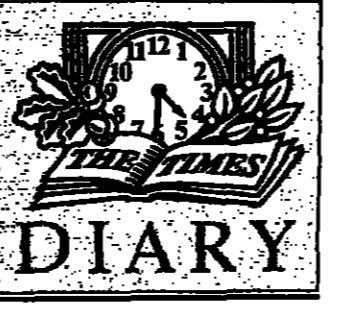
dered many of the town's good people homeless, groundsmen at the racecourse are concerned at the parched state of the turf for today's racing. "We're watering the track," said a spokesman. "Folkstone may have been flooded, but the course can soon dry out."

Clap trap

AS THE Conservatives lumber up for their conference in October, an extraordinary allegation has surfaced concerning last year's jamboree at the Winter Gardens in



"Can I have a 320,000"



Blackpool. A Tory supporter who works for the party claims that technicians organised "canned applause" for some of the speakers at the conference last year. He says that electricians wiring up special effects before the conference last year told him about the ruse.

Jackie-000

AFTER the success of *Elizabeth: A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen*, serialised in *The Times*, Sa-

royalty. Viking Penguin has just paid around £300,000 for her latest project, the story of Jackie Kennedy Onassis.

The publisher stresses that America's Queen will be "frank", and will examine the motives of her marriages. Sarah plans to milk her aristocratic connections for material — she is married to Lord Bangor, whom she quaintly calls Sausages.

Laborious

SENIOR staff at the Treasury are vexed about the lack of disciplinary action taken against Helen Goodman, the 37-year-old author of a colourful report which proposed



privatising the welfare state.

Their anger does not focus on her hopes of becoming a Labour MP. Instead, the stuffed shirts believe that she should be disciplined for bringing the Treasury's integrity into question.

They say she lied — first informing the Treasury that she wasn't seeking to be adopted for Labour in Barnsley, and then, only when the game was up, admitting that she was. "The worst possible calumny," harrumphs one of them. "A month since the incident and still her fate appears to be undecided."

Dancing queen

THE VIGOROUS party animal in Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, is revealed in a biography of her chum Sir Frederick Ashton, the great choreographer who died in 1988, due out this autumn. Ashton was so at ease with her that she would let him take "doggie bags" of leftovers away from dinners he shared with her.



Ashton: hats off

with Rostropovich at the piano, performed an unforgettable routine, with the 88-year-old Queen Elizabeth doing a sort of mock belly-dance, using the chiffon sleeves of her dress as a yashmak and Ashton throwing himself at her feet at the end.



BELIEVE IT OR NOT

The economy is doing well and may soon do even better

The news from the economy seems almost too good to be true. Unemployment is almost back to where it was before the last recession and if present trends continue there will be fewer than two million people officially out of work by the middle of next year. Inflation and mortgage rates are lower than they have been for a generation and, more importantly, they have shown a stability that would make even our grandparents feel at home. Sterling is also stable, the balance of payments is in order and there seem to be no financial crises on the horizon. This is a conjuncture almost unknown in Britain's crisis-prone economic history since the First World War: that unfamiliarity is one reason why people remain so sceptical about the economic outlook, to immense Tory chagrin.

There are, however, some more substantial reasons why the public distrusts both the economic miracle and the politicians who claim to have brought it about. While the good news on inflation and interest rates is copper-bottomed, the same cannot be said of the figures on unemployment. Although the official jobless figures have fallen by one million since the end of the recession, the number of people with jobs has not grown by anything like that amount. A large part of the reduction in unemployment has resulted from early retirement and expanding tertiary education, both of which may be welcome. But there has also been statistical fudge as workers previously on the unemployment rolls have been reclassified as disabled. To make the statistics even more confusing, many of the jobs that have been created have been part-time.

In itself there is nothing wrong with the shift to part-time female employment. Part-time jobs can offer welcome flexibility for people, particularly married women, to pursue their own lifestyles. But a new part-time job does not yield the same income or economic output as one that is full-time. As

the Bank of England pointed out last week in its quarterly *Inflation Report*, the total number of hours worked in the economy is almost the same today as at the end of the recession. In this sense, the sceptical public may have a better feel for what is going on in the economy than the statisticians.

In addition to the sense that jobs remain hard to find, the other major blot on Britain's economic performance has been the relatively low rate of investment. This is a flaw that Labour politicians never tire of pointing out. Investment is a concept that is even harder to quantify objectively than unemployment, especially at a time when so much of the nation's wealth is being laid down in intangible forms ranging from computer programs and financial trading strategies to newspaper databases. Nevertheless, it does appear that Britain would benefit from investing more than it does.

Despite the caveats about investment and unemployment, the economy is undoubtedly moving in the right direction and there is still better news to come. This will be especially true on employment, provided that the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England can maintain their present healthy state of creative tension and their sensible mix of monetary and fiscal policy for maintaining steady non-inflationary growth. As the economy grows, investment and full-time jobs will both increase. Investment will rise once businesses see their existing capacity fully used to meet orders. Full-time jobs will be created as the oversupply of labour diminishes and employers decide it is in their interests to offer their staff longer contracts and more hours. The way to increase investment, create more jobs and achieve better working conditions is not through social chapters, regulations and interference with markets. It is through strong and sustained economic growth.

BLOOD ON THE GREEN LINE

The dispute in Cyprus has lost none of its bitterness

The deaths of two Greek Cypriots in one week on the dividing line between the Greek and Turkish zones in Cyprus have raised intercommunal tensions on the island to their highest point since the Turkish armed intervention in 1974. Suddenly what was a grumbling low-level problem on a sleepy holiday destination has flared up into a confrontation as bitter as it is complex. Britain, America, Nato and the United Nations have interests that are directly threatened by the outbreak of violence. All have called for calm; none has any new initiative likely to win the confidence of two communities that for a generation have known nothing but suspicion and hatred.

Apportioning blame is futile, likely only to exacerbate the fear of each side and its conviction that the outside world has ignored legitimate grievances. Of course it was foolish and provocative of the Greek Cypriot bikers to attempt to break through the Green Line separating the two communities. The fact that there have been few incidents in the past decade does not mean that this dividing line is any less dangerous. Those who seek to provoke a confrontation should not be surprised if the result is violence and death. The Greek demonstrators were warned repeatedly not to go ahead with their action, and their own leaders asked them to call off the planned march into no man's land. Equally, however, the Turkish troops brutally overreacted. Using iron bars to beat to death a man entangled in barbed wire or shooting directly into the crowd is the kind of action calculated to inflame ethnic hatred and rekindle bitter memories of 1974 atrocities.

Both communities insist that the real cause of this flare-up is the failure of the

other side to negotiate in good faith. Their accusations come, however, at a time of unprecedented international activity. Britain, for one, has repeatedly insisted that the absence of incidents should not be mistaken for political tranquillity. Earlier this year Malcolm Rifkind named Sir David Hannay as a special envoy to Cyprus with the specific task of injecting new life into the stalemated talks. The Government believes, rightly, that the European Union promise to open negotiations within the next two years on Cypriot accession sets a deadline that makes a settlement all the more urgent. America, too, has no illusion about this problem.

Unfortunately there is no indication that either side is prepared for substantial negotiations. Each still takes refuge in slogans, posturing and appealing to their respective mainland protectors in Athens and Ankara. Affairs are not satisfactory in either half of the island: the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is unrecognised by anyone except Turkey, has an unsavoury reputation as a haven for fugitives, and an economy that is, at best, limping along. Rauf Denktaş, its leader, is not in good health, is losing popularity and has no plan for anything other than the status quo. The Greek-populated south is doing better economically but still suffers the indignity of being unable to control all the island it nominally represents. For both sides the concessions needed are still more painful than the present pain of division. Frustration is dangerous, not just for Cyprus but for all the eastern Mediterranean. Britain is right to redouble its effort to seek a solution: if only the communal leaders were themselves as committed to peace.

A TOUCH OF SAND

Food for thought from summer vote-catchers

August quiz: what do Michael Portillo and Glenda Jackson have in common? Answer: constituencies — Enfield Southgate and Hampstead and Highgate respectively — whose more vocal residents want nothing to do with the humble hamburger outlet. The Secretary of State for Defence might be forgiven for wishing that the hamburger, or at least McDonald's, had never been invented. Labour's "A Touch of Class" star has headed in hope of extra votes to alien sands where British tourists consume, along with their beer, almost nothing else.

Miss Jackson, flown into Alicante by Labour Supporters Overseas, is the perfect emissary. Who better than the actress who once electrified audiences in the Peter Brook *Marat-Sade* to inflict the torture of politics-as-usual on sunsoakers who might have been naive enough to imagine that the meaning of the Labour Party poster now blanketing the Costa Blanca, "No wonder you need a break", meant that they might actually get a break from politicians?

The problem, of course, as any playwright knows, is how to grip the audience with the news. Miss Jackson's press conference on arrival in Alicante, where she solemnly proclaimed that "We said we were going to fight them on the beaches, and that is what we are doing," confirmed how little politics understands of life's little ironies. Churchillian echoes have their place, but Churchillian echoes have their place, but one of them is not the midpoint under the

It is also moot whether her chosen garb, all black suit and court shoes (a touch unsteady in the sand) was precisely attuned to the lilo-side manner. The one refuge for vanity when you are lying prone and mostly naked on the beach wishing there was less of you is that all around you are similarly exposed on both counts. At such moments, to be swooped upon by the pale, irritatingly sveite and aggressively fully-clothed, accompanied by hordes of photographers is legitimate cause for lasting, not to say burning, resentment of the intruder.

Such is the sandworm's view of Labour's noble, not to say vaulting, ambition: to roll up the votes of "four million British citizens on holiday in Spain annually, and a sizeable expatriate community". But Miss Jackson has news for the sandworm. New Labour has plans to cut their taxes — or to be more precise, one tax in particular.

To counteract Tory taunts about its tartan tax for Scotland, Labour has hit on the idea of denouncing Kenneth Clarke's airport levy as a "summan tax". Miss Jackson appears to be promising that a tan will be cheaper under Tony. It is in line with Labour's low-tax rhetoric, itself as thin as a Benidorm bronzing on an Essex arm. Miss Jackson asks the holidaymakers to elect-her-quick and then a Labour Chancellor will squeeze them slow. She has shown herself a trouper but it may be for naught: faced with all this Labour activism voters may prefer the

Balancing public safety with the freedom to own guns

From Miss Berenice Grant

Sir, In 1991, when I was a pupil barrister, my pupil master unsuccessfully defended an 18-year-old youth accused of murder. He had gone into a pub and purchased, for the sum of £40, a pistol and nine rounds of ammunition.

Quite apart from the difficulty and expense he would have been put to in obtaining a firearms certificate, the same gun, bought legitimately from a reputable dealer, would have cost him up to ten times as much and he would not have been able to afford it.

The present law regulating the sale and possession of firearms is quite stringent enough (letters, August 3; leading article, August 14). It is and will remain not only simpler to obtain guns on the black market, but also to obtain them there at a price which is well within the means of the average young criminal.

Shooting, like driving a car (which is statistically far more likely to have lethal results in this country), is merely a skill. A gun, like a car, is merely a tool.

Yours faithfully,
BERENICE GRANT,
3 Temple Gardens, Temple, EC4,
August 13.

From Squadron Leader
P. W. P. Parry, RAF Regiment (ret'd)

Sir, For most of my life I have been a military weapons instructor. I taught people to use weapons to kill in combat.

As part of my duties I was at times a range safety officer when civilians were shooting. From these experiences I would suggest that many people who possess handgun licences are unfit to possess weapons. I often heard these supposed sportsmen talk of "stopping power" and "wounding capability". Many had pet names for their guns. Few had ever seen a gunshot wound.

There is no doubt in my mind that handguns present a powerful psychological attraction to many, but to none more so than those with flawed personalities. Guns represent a power that the owner is unlikely ever to achieve by any other means and they are, I believe, irresistible to the weak and unstable.

Anonymous informers

From Mr Evan M. Davies

Sir, Mr David Wedgwood Benn (letter, August 14) makes a valid point about the dangers of using anonymous informers on the "beat-a-cheat" hotline.

In 1951 when the communist trouble was at its worst in Malaya, the Government established "PO Box 999" and asked for anonymous information about anyone supporting the communists. In the Special Branch at Penang we received a fair number of letters mainly concerning rural shopkeepers, but little or nothing came of them. One of my staff conceived the idea of asking such shopkeepers who owed them the most money. Nearly always further investigation showed the debtor to be the informant.

Yours sincerely,
EVAN M. DAVIES,
31 Castle Street, Farnham, Surrey,
August 14.

From Mr John Wedgwood Pound

Sir, I accept that the potential problem of malicious calls is a serious point against the "beat-a-cheat" scheme. However I do feel that irrespective of how much money is saved as a direct result of this facility, the debate which has been provoked and the increased awareness concerning benefit fraud is a step in the right direction. Only when people fully realise that those who cheat the system cheat us all will there be any real progress. At present benefit fraudsters are often seen in an heroic light: this culture must be changed.

Yours truly,
JOHN WEDGWOOD POUND,
5 Amery Close, Battenhall, Worcester,
August 14.

From the Reverend Alan Robson

Sir, "Cives Romani sumus", you proclaim (leading article, August 5), and proceed to argue that "Rome is in English blood and stone, language and literature and way of life".

Sadly, in the light of the new "beat-a-cheat" hotline, it would appear not yet to have reached the Department of Social Security. In AD 112 the Emperor Trajan wrote to the younger Pliny, then a provincial governor: Anonymous accusations must not carry any weight whatever, no matter what the charge may be, for they are not only a precedent of the very worst type, but they are not worthy of the spirit of our age.

Yours etc,
ALAN ROBSON,
3 Staden Park, Trimmingham, Norfolk.

Life on Mars

From the Earl of Lauderdale

Sir, The news is all very exciting: but how do we know that this meteorite — many, many years ago — did in fact come from Mars (report, August 8)? Could it not have arrived from some other part of the Universe?

Yours etc,
LAUDERDALE,
House of Lords,
August 8.

Automatic handguns are designed to kill people and have no other purpose. I see no reason why any private individual should have a licence to own such weapons.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PARRY,
1 Newell Rise, Apsley,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire,
August 14.

From the President of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales

Sir, I wish to correct the assertion by the chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, Sir Ivan Lawrence, interviewed on television last night, that the Police Superintendents' Association had "changed their evidence" since the committee hearing. He also said that "these organisations do not always speak for the majority of people they represent".

For the record, we have consistently stated that we support a ban on the personal possession of handguns kept in private dwellings, which practice we believe it is impossible to justify. This was the substance of my evidence to the select committee and to Lord Cullen's inquiry. It does Sir Ivan no credit to misrepresent our position or to suggest that we have changed our views "because we like to be loved".

The dissenting minority on the committee heard the same evidence, of course, and concurred with our view, which was arrived at following extensive consultation.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN MACKENZIE,
President, Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales,
67a Reading Road,
Fangbourne, Berkshire,
August 14.

From Dr G. S. Spathis

Sir, You are rightly critical of the proposal by Tory MPs on the Home Affairs Select Committee that doctors should countersign applications for a gun licence (leading article, August 14).

If this were to be the case, those doctors who see no reason for anyone to own a handgun would obviously find a patient's desire to do so irrational and thus a sufficient reason

to disqualify them; those with a more neutral attitude would find it difficult to disqualify anyone unless they had previously offered violence to others (for themselves) or their hallucinations were so incessant as to require drugs to control them.

If medical involvement is really thought necessary, someone who is unbiased (ie, unacquainted with the applicant) should collect appropriate opinions from medical and other referees. There is, of course, no reason why such a third party should not be a doctor (for a fee) or a lawyer (for a hefty one).

Yours faithfully,
G. S. SPATHIS,
7 Kildare Gardens, Bayswater, W2,
August 14.

From Dr Jeffrey Sherwin

Sir, Some five years ago I was approached by one of my patients to support his application for a gun licence. I called him in for an interview and questioned his reasons for wanting this gun. Eventually I decided, given his personality, even though his home background was impeccable, not to support his application.

The immediate result was a most belligerent phone call to my home and a most unpleasant letter to my surgery. Both I and my staff were concerned that this antagonism might be directed in some physical form towards ourselves or our families. His wife however telephoned me to say how relieved she was that we had prevented him from procuring a firearm.

Some time later we read in the local newspaper that he had been arrested for violent behaviour. How much worse that behaviour might have been had he had access to a gun.

I accept that a GP might have background knowledge that can assist the police and personally I would be happy to provide such information, but it cannot be right or more particularly, safe that the GP be recognised as the person who has had the final say.

Yours sincerely,
JEFFREY SHERWIN,
282 Harehills Lane,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
August 13.

Facing up to ME

From Dr Richard Mayou

Sir, The impassioned but futile arguer, about chronic fatigue continue to handicap medical management of a very substantial clinical problem. It was encouraging to read Dr Thomas Stuttford's article (August 8; also letters, August 10, 12) emphasising the fundamental importance of the inter-relationship of physical and psychological symptoms. It would be valuable if continuing discussion could take account of the following points.

All physical disorders have psychological consequences whose individual pattern and course depend upon the nature of the illness and on the sufferer's personality and circumstances. Not infrequently anxiety and depressive symptoms (which include fatigue, lack of concentration, irritability, poor sleep, poor memory and lack of pleasure of life) are severe and may respond to standard psychiatric treatments.

There are a large number of non-specific physical symptoms, such as fatigue, abdominal and chest pain, headache and back pain, without a clear physical explanation which are common in general practice and hospital consultation. Whilst many of these are transient, an important minority are severe and disabling, and may be difficult to treat.

Persistent fatigue is best referred to as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), a term which, unlike myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), avoids unsubstantiated reference to a particular brain pathology. Many specific causes are known but chronic problems are usually not due to a single physical or psychological cause, but rather to the interaction of several physical and psychological causes. As time passes psychological and other secondary factors (especially the profound weakness associated with prolonged physical inactivity) often become increasingly important. Psychological and physical factors are not incompatible alternative causes, they are both part of the explanation of a complex disorder.

In the absence of specific physical treatments, care can usefully concentrate on the psychologically and

Time travel

From Mr John Harvey

Sir, Harvey Elliott (article, *Travel News*, August 8) is quite right to question the more irritating rules of the travel industry and its regulators, including the requirement to check in at airports two hours before departure; time that is spent in long queues and a series of departure lounges.

I have no doubt that the airport and airline authorities would claim that this was for administrative and particularly security reasons. One can only imagine the outcry if the railway companies decided to adopt equally elaborate and time-consuming boarding procedures. Presumably the potential security threat to a fast-moving train is just as great as that to an aircraft in flight.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARVEY,
1 Drove Cottages,
Roddwell, Lewes, East Sussex,
August 10.

A happy end for children's books

From Miss Ann Lawson Lucas

Sir, An archive and exhibition centre for children's literature in Britain is long overdue, and I was delighted to read of the proposal made by Elizabeth Hammill of Waterstone's bookshop in Newcastle upon Tyne (report, August 3).

Ironically, given the quality of children's books, past and present, in this country, children's literature is at present much more highly valued and intensively studied by scholars abroad, and many lessons can be learned from the prototypes established elsewhere.

Interesting models exist, for example, in the vigorously active institutions of the Swedish Children's Book Institute in Stockholm and the Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi near Pistoia in Tuscany (both a theme park for the young and a study centre for scholars). The Swedish institute is generalist in approach, combining the historical with the contemporary; the Italian foundation, while encouraging an interest in all children's literature, commemorates especially the work of Carlo Collodi, author of *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (published in 1883).

While I warmly endorse the desire to preserve and present to the public the original archive materials (as well as contextual matter) of contemporary writers and illustrators, I, like the chairman of the Edith Nesbit Society (letter, August 8), remain dismayed at our lack of public recognition of the pioneers of the past. We have no equivalent memorial to the genius of Lewis Carroll (for instance) to compare with the Collodi foundation.

Add to this the way in which the serious study in Britain of children's literature has been sidelined, as a minor vocational topic, and we emerge as remarkably biased about a literature which nurtures the intellect and the imagination of each new generation.

Yours sincerely,
ANN LAWSON LUCAS (Member of the Board, International Research Society for Children's Literature),
University of Hull,
Department of Italian,
Hull HU6 7RX,
August 9.

From the Chairman of the Children's Books History Society

Sir, As a member of the group concerned with acquisitions for the proposed Centre for the Children's Book, I think that I can reassure the chairman of the Edith Nesbit Society that the centre — if founded — will not focus only on postwar children's literature.

Modern material does, however, offer a comparatively straightforward starting-point for an acquisitions policy, since one can deal directly with living authors and illustrators, or with their immediate heirs. Earlier archive material is not only harder to come by (much will have been chucked away) but will also gravitate towards the salerooms.

We shall have to devise much more energetic strategies to counter overseas buyers who often seem to be ready to bid till they drop to acquire original work from British authors and artists.

Yours etc,
BRIAN ALDERSON, Chairman,
Children's Books History Society,
28 Victoria Road,
Richmond, North Yorkshire,
August 9.

Telephone boxes

From Mrs Jean Gaffin

Sir, You say (leading article, August 14) that for 11 years BT has done its best to thwart the desire of people for the return of the traditional red telephone boxes designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. But public telephones are for the use of everybody and these particular boxes are inaccessible to wheelchair users and unsuitable for many other disabled and/or elderly people.

For several years the OfTel committee which I chair has been working with BT and others to improve disabled people's access to public telephones. Restoring more Scott boxes will put that progress into reverse.

The Disability Discrimination Act of 1995, when fully implemented, will require telephone companies, like other businesses, to remove or alter any barriers that prevent disabled people from using their services.

Please let us focus less on nostalgia and more on people.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN GAFFIN,
Advisory Committee on
Telecommunications for Disabled
and Elderly People,
50 Ludgate Hill, EC4.

Football crazy

From Mr W. G. McPherson

Sir, Let us spare a thought for Gaza, who you report cannot play (Sport, August 7) because he is "suspended from both legs" and injured to boot. What has he done to deserve this?

I am, Sir, yours sympathetically,
W. G. McPHERSON,
37 Granary Street,
Humby, Aberdeenshire,
August 8.

NEWS

US-British relations at low point

President Clinton's support for Gerry Adams has left Anglo-American relations in their worst state since the war of independence, the former Secretary of State James Baker said.

Boys dominate in A levels

Boys asserted their dominance at A level. Five took six grade A passes and boys' schools took most of the top places in the first results table.

Internet porn

Scotland Yard has launched a drive to clean up the Internet and told companies providing access to block hard porn outlets or face prosecution.

Tory deal attacked

A businessman claimed that Tories in the Enfield Southgate constituency of Michael Portillo had reneged on a deal to sell him the party headquarters.

German row

Baroness Thatcher maintained a determined silence over remarks about the Germans which had provoked a "frightful row" between herself and Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister.

Rowers rescued

Two Norwegian rowers, feared drowned at sea when their tiny boat capsized in fierce weekend storms, survived for five days by eating a raw seagull.

Breakfast Times

Who can tell Kellogg's corn flakes from Tesco's? Not many people, a blind taste test proved in the offices of The Times.

Rail warning

Passengers are paying the price for the break-up of British Rail, according to an industry watchdog. It says more services are running late and much-needed investment in rolling stock is grinding to a halt.

Fighting on the beaches

A touch overdressed for a Benidorm beach in high season, Glenda Jackson MP picked her way unsteadily through a labyrinth of gleaming bodies, bare breasts and astonished expressions.

Peaceful conquest

Roman Britain: proud Lincoln is the perfect demonstration that in a large part of England the Roman military occupation was brief and that peaceful colonisation lasted far longer.

Minor accolade

A businessman, who owns what he claims is the finest Morris Minor in the world, paid nearly £26,000 for the original drawings of the classic car.

Cyprus fear

Cyprus was bracing itself for another outbreak of violence as mourners gather for the funeral of the Greek Cypriot killed by Turkish soldiers.

Speech interruption

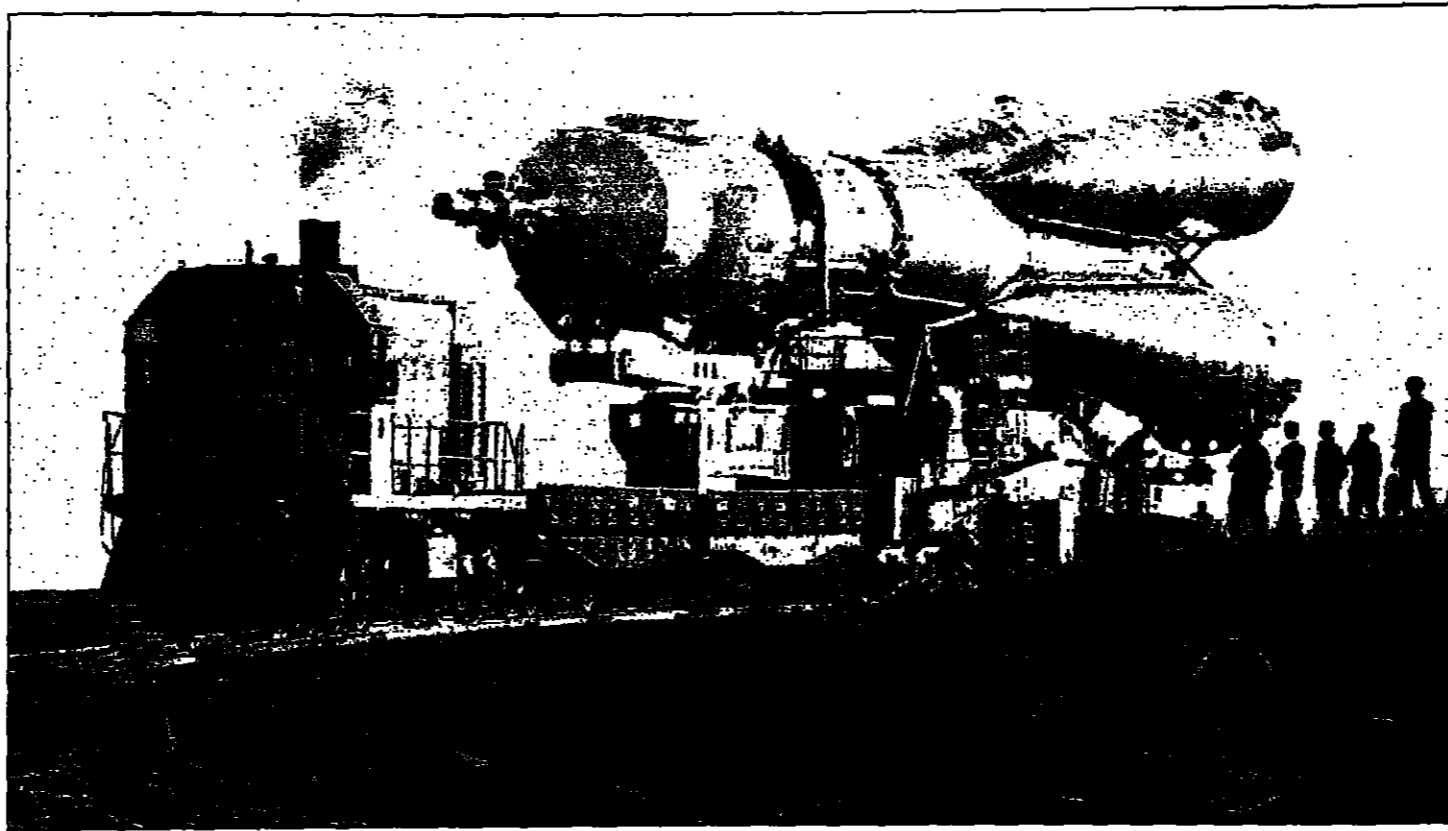
Preparations for what was widely viewed as the biggest speech of Bob Dole's life were upset when his most inspirational speech-writer walked out.

Women smokers risk

Women smokers are more likely to develop lung cancer and they seem to need fewer cigarettes to do so, said a report commissioned by the Australian College of Physicians.

Grozny plotter

Shamil Basayev, the Chechen commander who masterminded the raid on Grozny, is an underground banker needing a fresh wound and plotting his next move.



The rocket Soyuz TM is hoisted to a take-off position at Baikonour ready for Cassiopean Mission, a Franco-Russian space flight

BUSINESS

Copper: The Securities and Investments Board launched a consultative document on reform of the London metals market in the wake of the huge losses suffered by Sumitomo.

Economy: The annual inflation rate crept up to 2.2 per cent in July from 2.1 per cent in June. Rising house prices overshadowed a big drop in seasonal foods.

Thom EMI: Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman of Thom EMI, exercised a large bundle of options on shares days before the company demerger.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 7.1 to 3837.4. Sterling was unchanged at 84.8 after a fall from \$1.5506 to \$1.5504 but a rise from DM2.3005 to DM2.3030.

SPORT

Football: The influx of foreign players looks likely to continue as Manchester United show interest in Miguel Nadal, the Barcelona defender.

Cricket: Courtney Walsh, the Gloucestershire fast bowler, took six for 22 as Yorkshire tumbled to 166 all out, putting a dent in their championship hopes.

Golf: There was a cosmopolitan look about the top of the leaderboard on the opening day of the Westabix Women's British Open at Woburn.

Equestrianism: Michael Whitaker's chances of winning the Derby at Hickstead increased when he accepted the ride on his brother's Derby specialist horse, Gammon.

ARTS

Edinburgh Nights: Two fine productions, Chris Harman's 'Shining Souls' and David Greig's 'The Architecture', provide an enlightening insight into troubled Scottish urban life.

Tuneful trio: At the Tricycle in Kilburn three talented female singers star in a superb jazz cabaret, 'Three Ms Behaving'.

High Times: The 13-year-old LeAnn Rimes is being hailed as a country singer prodigy. Her debut album, 'Blue', is currently at No 3 in the American pop chart.

Pop on Friday: Among this week's new records is an album from Cyprus Hill, a compilation soul CD with Smokey Robinson and Al Green, and a single from the 17-year-old singer Aaliyah.

FEATURES

Valerie Grove talks to David Blunkett. "I never want anyone to say I didn't do the job well because I couldn't see..."

Tug of war: The House of Lords ruled that Salome Stopford could not keep ten-year-old Sifiso Mhlangu and he should return to his parents in South Africa.

Suspicious of success: As the results become known, why are there suggestions that modular A levels are less demanding than linear A levels?

Intellectual assault course: Pupils at a summer school specialising in Greek learnt as much of the language in two weeks as they did in two school terms.

On their mettle: Initiative, leadership and team skills are missing in many school leavers, say business executives.

The continuing violence among immigrant gangs in Turin is testimony to the gravity of the problem of controlling both illegal immigration into Europe and the criminal activity which breeds off it.

Reform of the gun control laws, celebrating children's literature, the complexities of ME.



IN THE TIMES

FIRM AND FRUITY: Kate Muir on three women and some marvellous bouquets at a French vineyard

CUTTING COSTS: How to pay less for your mortgage and cut your credit card rate

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Young blondes shop until they drop in 'Filthy Rich: Daddy's Girls' (Channel 4, 8.00pm) Review: Lynne Truss is unhappy about children featured in a documentary on precocious puberty... Page 39

DEBATE

Believe it or not: The news from the economy seems almost too good. But the economy is genuinely doing well and may soon do even better... Page 17

Blood on the 'Line'

The deaths of two Greek Cypriots in one week on the line between the Greek and Turkish zones in Cyprus have raised tensions to their highest point since the Turkish intervention in 1974... Page 17

A touch of sand

What do Michael Portillo and Glenda Jackson have in common? Constituencies whose more vocal residents want nothing to do with the hamburger outlet... Page 17

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

Most of us - yes, including me - would at first make fun of the snail. It is the slowest creature in the world, a few crumbs for him would be a banquet; but when I think of this surprising and intricate creature, I stop smiling and start to wonder... Page 16

MICHAEL GOVE

From the privatisation of army hospitals, through the doubts about Admiralty Arch and the Royal Naval College at Greenwich to the latest summer squall over the sale of his constituency headquarters to McDonald's, Michael Portillo has found controversy written into every contract... Page 16

PETER MANDLER

One of the recently invented "myths of the English" is that a sensitivity to the national heritage comes more deeply and naturally to the English than to Johnny Foreigner... Page 16

OBITUARIES

The Rev Christopher Gray, vicar, Sergio Celibidache, conductor; Florence Elliott, matron of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast; Alec Sorrell, statistician... Page 19

LETTERS

Reform of the gun control laws, celebrating children's literature, the complexities of ME... Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,248

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

- ACROSS: 1 Sudden onset of snow producing white water (6). 4 Volunteer about to kill criminal (8). 10 Inflation quarrel about cashier (3,4,2). 11 False return admitted by public transport (5). 12 Poet regarded as genius by sovereign (7). 13 Mistake that may give rise to another slip (7). 14 It generates waves - a large number - in port (5). 15 Openings under bridge that may get blocked during cold spell (8). 18 Not caught in motorcade moving at a reasonable pace (8). 20 Composer drank almost to the end (5). 23 Walked stiffly out, in a way (7).

Crossword puzzle solutions and grid.

FOR THE LATEST REGIONAL FORECAST, 24 HOURS A DAY, DIAL 0891 500 FOLLOWED BY THE APPROPRIATE CODE

Regional forecast table with columns for region, sun, rain, snow, sleet, and temperature.

AA ROADWATCH

Table of road traffic information including roadworks, delays, and road closures.

WINDSPEEDS & LOWEST

Table of wind speeds and lowest temperatures across various regions.

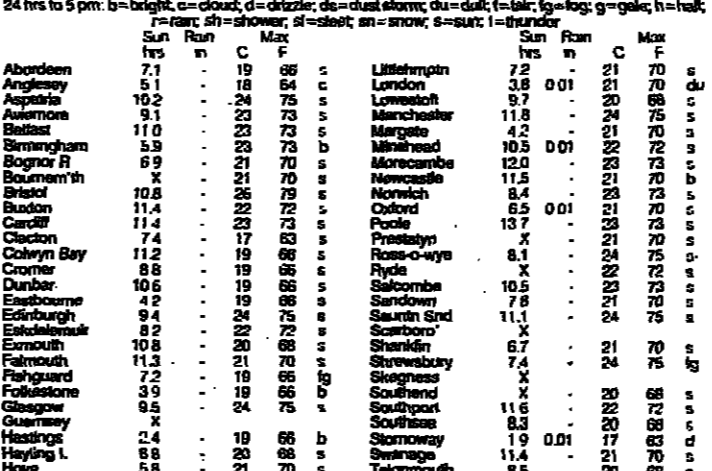
NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1995.

AROUND BRITAIN

Table of weather conditions and forecasts for various parts of Britain.

CHANGES TO THE CHART BELOW FROM NOON: LOWS D AND E WILL MOVE NORTHEAST, BOTH FILLING GRADUALLY. HIGH E WILL BE SLOW MOVING WITH LITTLE CHANGE IN CENTRAL PRESSURE



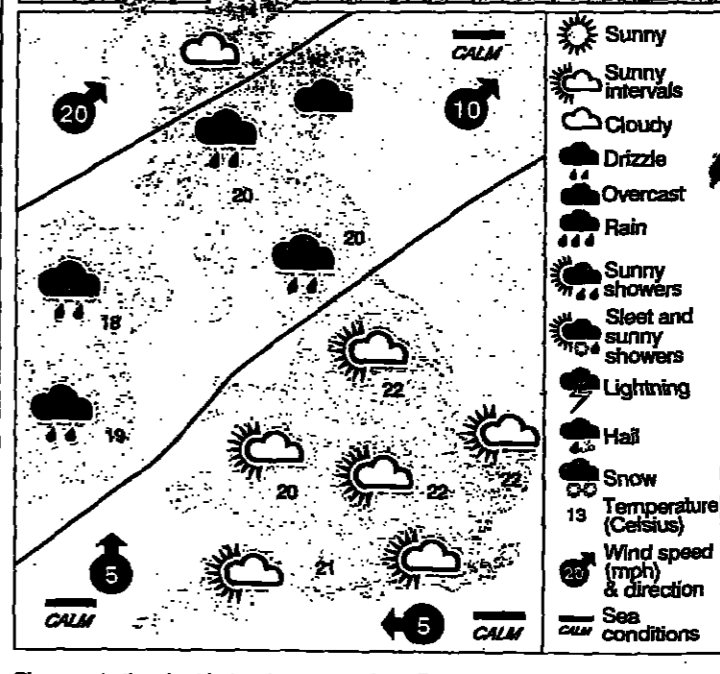
HIGH TIDES

Table of high tide times for various locations.

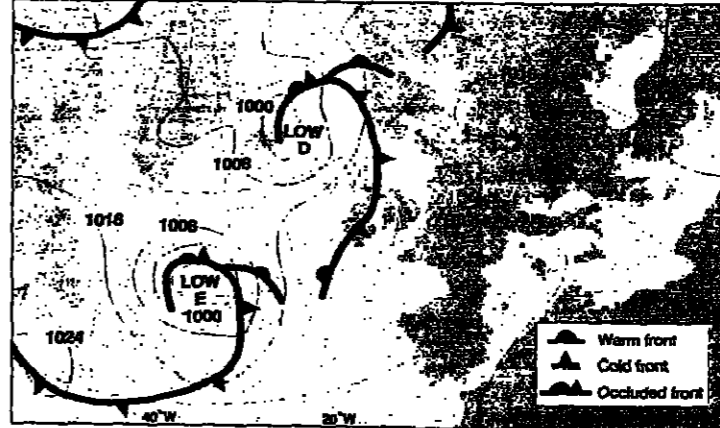
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table of sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

NOON TODAY



CHANGES TO THE CHART BELOW FROM NOON: LOWS D AND E WILL MOVE NORTHEAST, BOTH FILLING GRADUALLY. HIGH E WILL BE SLOW MOVING WITH LITTLE CHANGE IN CENTRAL PRESSURE



HIGH TIDES

Table of high tide times for various locations.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table of sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

Large advertisement for 'IB sha of me market' with a woman's face and text.

THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



EDUCATION
Why modular
A levels are a
success story
PAGE 28



ARTS
LeAnn Rimes is
country music's hot
new voice — at 13
PAGES 30-32



SPORT
Nicholas takes
place among
leading pack
PAGES 33-40

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY AUGUST 16 1996

SIB shake-up of metals market likely

By ROBERT MILLER

A REVIEW of the London metals market launched yesterday by the Securities and Investments Board could lead to fundamental reforms to the way metals are traded and dealers are regulated. The move comes in the wake of the \$1.8 billion loss by Sumitomo in copper trades. But the City's senior watchdog is expected to meet fierce opposition to rule changes from market insiders. Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB, said the review was timely not just because of Sumitomo's losses but because users of the London Metal Exchange needed to be reassured that it was properly regulated, with all customers, regardless of size or financial clout, being treated fairly. "If there is bad business taking place we want to scare it away," he said. Until Sumitomo Corporation announced in June that it had lost \$1.8 billion from the alleged unauthorised trading of Yasuo Hamanaka, its former chief copper trader, the LME, whose chairman is Raj Bagri, had been allowed a degree of regulatory latitude



Bagri: LME chairman

not extended to the more mainstream equity and derivatives trading. Professional market users had argued that only copper-producing countries such as Chile and China, used the exchanges. Therefore, the tough regulations that applied to other parts of the London market should not be extended to metals. Copper producers, for example, might not want to reveal business deals on the LME open market so dealt instead in the private Over-the-Counter (OTC) market.

The SIB review has to balance the needs of large traders and producers as well as the needs of the smaller dealers and intermediaries. Sir Andrew refused to rule out the possibility that the professional method of regulation hitherto extended to the LME and OTC markets might be radically altered as a result of the consultation process, which ends on October 15. The copper investigations involve civil and criminal prosecutors in the UK, United States and Japan, as well as a number of other jurisdictions, such as Guernsey in the Channel Islands. In the UK alone, the Securities and Futures Authority has been investigating the copper market since 1993, with the Serious Fraud Office entering the ring in the wake of the Sumitomo announcement. Last week the SFO executed search warrants on the homes of Charlie Vincent and Ashley Levett, whose Winchester Commodities Group sparked the original SFA investigation. Codeco, the Chilean Government's copper-trading arm, complained that it had been the victim of an alleged \$200 million fraud. Winchester, which dealt extensively with Codeco and Sumitomo, has denied any wrongdoing and pointed out that all its trades were properly authorised.

David King, chief executive of the LME, yesterday outlined the difficulties of cross-border regulation. He said that Mr Hamanaka had been interviewed over his copper trading through London, at the SIB's offices in 1991. Sumitomo was alerted immediately to the LME and the SIB's concerns. "We did everything we could, including alerting the relevant authorities in Japan," he said. "We had similar dialogues in 1993 and 1995." The 75-page SIB consultative document outlines a series of "signposts" that it hopes will elicit responses from buyers and sellers of metals on the LME and OTC.

Pennington, page 23

Inflation static despite increase in house prices

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SHARP summer sale discounts and a big fall in seasonal food prices helped to keep Britain's underlying inflation rate unchanged in July despite rising house prices. The annual rate of headline inflation edged up to 2.2 per cent from 2.1 per cent in June, despite a 0.4 per cent fall in prices, the first monthly decline since January. The annual rate rose because prices declined by a larger margin last year. But the underlying inflation rate, the measure favoured by the Government, which City forecasters thought might rise to 3 per cent, held steady at 2.8 per cent. In the month, prices fell 0.5 per cent. This was reassuring news for Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, who has come under unusually fierce fire from the Bank of England for his decision to cut base rates by a quarter point in June. Yesterday's data makes it less likely that the Chancellor will listen to the Bank's call last week for a pre-emptive rise in rates to head off inflation. The Office for National Statistics noted that summer sales discounts were even sharper than last year. Clothing and footwear prices plunged 4.9 per cent,

the biggest fall in any July since records began in 1948. Against a year ago, clothing and footwear prices are down 1.4 per cent, the largest annual fall since 1953. The most dramatic price falls came in footwear prices. This may be related to the financial collapse of Facia, which had bought several of the best-known high street shoe shops chains. These have been holding closing down and stock clearance sales. Seasonal food prices were depressed by bumper fruit crops at home. There were also price wars over non-seasonal items such as beef, bread and cereals. The largest upward pressure on headline inflation came from housing costs and household services. The ONS said that its housing index rose 0.4 per cent this year compared with a fall of 0.3 per cent in July 1995, mainly because of rising house prices. There were increases in postal charges and cuts in telephone charges were not as steep as last year. Some economists noted with concern that inflation in the service sector picked up to 2.6 per cent from a low of 2 per cent between April and May, largely because of an end to reductions in insurance charges.

Clean first half for Johnson



Cleaning up: Richard Zerney, chief executive, and Terry Greer, chairman of Johnson Group Cleaners, report first-half profits up 28.5 per cent to £9.2 million. The dividend rises 0.1p to 2.9p out of earnings up 10 per cent to 11.2p. Photograph by Peter Trivner

Taxman puts 1066 family in bungalow

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE noble, if macabre, name of Pine-Coffin dates back to Norman times. But a complex, long-running dispute with the Inland Revenue has led the Pine-Coffin family to lose the estate they were given by William the Conqueror for their role in suppressing the Saxons. Lieutenant-Colonel

John Pine-Coffin has left his ancestral 2,000 acres near Bideford in Devon for a modest bungalow. After the death of his father in 1978 Colonel Pine-Coffin sought capital transfer tax exemption on the estate by undertaking to keep Portledge with its mansion house and five listed buildings intact. He said: "The place was

then in a 19th-century state. But I knew that you could make a go of it with dairy farming." However, when he attempted to mortgage 90 per cent of the land to pay for the improvements and the £1.5 million bill for upkeep of the properties, the Inland Revenue informed him that this would be a breach of his

undertaking and that he would face a tax bill of 60 per cent of the value of the mortgaged land. Colonel Pine-Coffin said: "In what other business would you have to pay 60 per cent tax on borrowings?" The row continued for more than a decade, while Portledge languished. In 1989, the Revenue finally ruled that land could be

mortgaged without breaching the undertakings. But by this time Portledge had suffered from years of underinvestment. In May, the estate was sold. Colonel Pine-Coffin, 75, whose family motto is *Tempestate Floresco* — in a storm I flourish — now intends to pursue the Revenue for compensation.

Southgate's £3m options profit

By ERIC REGULY

SIR Colin Southgate, chairman of the Thorn EMI music and rentals group, yesterday made a cash and paper profit of £3 million from exercising options on shares just days before the company demerges. He made a cash profit of £1.25 million from exercising share options and selling shares. He is also sitting on a paper profit of £2 million from exercising other options in the company. The cash profit came a day after Sir Colin paid £1.27 million to exercise options granted to him in 1989 and 1993 on more than 140,000 shares. He sold the shares at £17.75.

Sir Colin also exercised options on 169,605 shares granted in 1986, 1987 and 1988 at a cost of around £1 million. Based on last night's share price of £17.89, down 1p, this stake is worth £3 million. Simon Duffy, finance director, also converted share options into equity yesterday, exercising 112,000 options granted at 684p in 1992, and 42,750 options granted at 933p in 1993. Thorn EMI's proposed demerger into separately listed music and rentals businesses will take effect on Monday, if, as expected, it receives shareholder approval at an

extraordinary general meeting today. Some analysts think that Sir Colin's conversion of options into equity is a sign that a takeover of EMI Music may be imminent. EMI Music will emerge as one of the world's top five music companies and will be the only one exposed to a potential takeover because of the lack of a controlling shareholder. American film studios such as MCA, which is owned by Seagram of Montreal, are considered likely candidates for Thorn Music. Music is generally more profitable than films because of the lower production costs.



Southgate: valuable stake

Payphone injunction issued by High Court

By MORAG PRESTON

A TEMPORARY injunction was issued by the High Court yesterday to prevent BT's biggest payphone rival from using its traditional red telephone boxes. New World Payphones has been halted from returning the much-loved K6 phone boxes to the streets until a full trial of the issues in October. BT has also been instructed not to erect any phoneboxes in those areas under discussion. BT wanted Mr Justice Lightman to grant a permanent injunction against New World. But, after two hours of

out-of-court negotiations, Jeffrey Burke, QC, BT's counsel, said that the two sides had agreed that the two sides should stay "on equal footing" pending a full trial of the issues in October. New World has bought 60 of the kiosks designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and rejected by BT in 1985. It was to paint them green so as not to clash with the environment. BT says it is concerned that people would think that they were using a BT service. Success symbols, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	2837.4	(+7.1)
Yield	4.07%	
FT-SE All share	1887.81	(+3.18)
Nikkei	20668.25	(-12.88)
New York		
Dow Jones	5665.04	(-1.84)
S&P Composite	662.61	(+0.58)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(4%)
Long Bond	9 3/4%	(9%)
Yield	6.80%	(6.75%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 7/8%	(10 7/8%)
Future (Sept)		

STERLING

New York		
\$	1.5508*	(1.5494)
London		
\$	1.5506	(1.5505)
DM	2.3035	(2.3000)
FF	7.8707	(7.8611)
SP	1.8551	(1.8578)
Yen	167.35	(167.18)
E index	84.8	(84.8)

DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.4855*	(1.4886)
FF	5.0790*	(5.0875)
SP	1.2055*	(1.2058)
Yen	108.00*	(108.12)
\$ Index	96.2	(96.2)
Tokyo close Yen	108.13	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$19.85	(\$20.05)
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GOLD

London close	\$386.35	(\$386.45)
* denotes midday trading price		

Power play

Electricity companies are paying generators 10 per cent more than the market rate in deals the companies feel forced to accept to ensure security of supply. Page 22

Hanson profits

Hanson, the conglomerate that is splitting itself in four, raised nine month profits from £850 million to £1,480 million after counting in £608 million of profits from disposals. Page 23

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EA wins £90m contract

Kept board gathers in rival plans Labour's arguments don't hold water SIB's metal fatigue

Twilight of the terrible twins

WHEN is an offer not an offer? When is a mere proposal an offer? And when is the board of a company you are invested in justified in not passing on to you details of how your investment can be made more valuable?

The answer is in the arcane world of investment trusts, as 70,000 private investors in the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust are gradually learning. We have visited before the twilight world of the terrible twins Kept and Mepit, a similar trust from Mercury.

Next Monday marks the deadline for proposals to the Kept board, competing against a hostile offer from another trust. Kept shares, sold to investors two and a half years ago at £1, are currently trading at 93½p. Add on the value of some warrants only available to original investors and you get to just short of 99p. Not a brilliant return, really, and Kleinwort has had an exciting couple of weeks explaining why.

The two trusts arrived, swallowed up every penny of cash looking for a punt on European privatisations, and then hit a falling stock market. By their nature they were inevitably heavily exposed to just those sectors of the market, utilities, heavy industrials and financials, that were least in favour by 1995.

The hostile offer from TR

European Growth Trust has flushed out plenty of City vultures keen to take over the running of Kept. There are 11 parties expressing interest, although not all will put in serious proposals. Kleinwort has its own plans for cancelling the near-14 per cent discount the shares stand at to Kept's actual asset value. This would involve converting into a unit trust, to allow investors to exchange their holding for cash without having to sell through the stock market. It also allows the trust to continue in existence, catering for those wanting to stay in for the upturn in its fortunes that Kleinwort is predicting.

The Takeover Panel has ruled that this plan must be considered as a rival formal offer; shareholders will have to know of it, so they can weigh it against the TR bid. The question is how many of the other proposals that come in by close of play on Monday will likewise have to be subjected to public scrutiny.

Kept's board says it may just pick out the best. Several plans will clearly fall short of being full bids; they may just involve a

fund manager suggesting it can do the job rather better than Kleinwort. This might appeal to investors; but they may never get to hear of it unless that manager decides later on to go public. The Kept directors are in loco parentis here, and Daddy knows best. They have at least said their selection will come in time for the closing of the TR offer.

This is an important matter. Many overseas investment trusts are trading at similar discounts to their true worth, and Kept could trigger a feeding frenzy in a normally obscure and tranquil sector of the stock market. The issue will arise again.

Fat cat campaign wears thin

LABOUR'S cascade of fat cat "scandals" have a desperate air of the silly season about them. Last week, Glenda Jackson insisted, somewhat inaccurately, that a clutch of the sort of companies one would expect to donate money to the Tories — merchant banks, Hanson, and so on — had done rather well out



of the British Rail privatisation.

At the weekend, we learned, courtesy of Frank Dobson, shadow environment spokesman, that water companies make, ooh, pots and pots of money and a fair few mistakes. Yesterday, Mr Dobson discovered non-executive directorships, and the habit of retired civil servants of popping up in the company boardroom.

One should not blame Mr Dobson and his Labour colleagues. They are simply hitting the Conservatives in the area where they are most vulnerable: privatisation. Indeed, water industry gossip has Mr Dobson apologising to his friends in the business with a shame-faced "Sorry — nothing personal". But

there is a danger of such a scattergun approach obscuring the real issues.

It is unclear just what Labour would do about industry fat cats. Higher tax is not on the agenda because this would hit the slothful undeserving and the aspiring entrepreneur alike. There has likewise been no suggestion of any root-and-branch dismantling of accepted corporate governance, such as limits on the number of non-executive posts that can be held.

Yet it is hard not to feel uneasy at the arrival of a civil servant on the board of the company he helped to privatise. There is no suggestion that Sir Humphrey, in his well-deserved retirement, has much influence left to exert on behalf of his new employer. Rather it is the suspicion of a past favour being rewarded.

The companies themselves say they want non-executives with experience in all walks of life. Fine. Try a ban on appointments to any business with which they have previously had official dealings. Let defence mandarins go into banking, let their counterparts at the Treasury try their

luck at arms manufacturers. Why does one suspect that the appeal of retired civil servants might then suddenly wane?

Bluffer's guide to copper

WE DON'T know what happened. We're not even sure we will ever understand what happened. We don't want it to happen again, but we haven't a clue how to prevent it. Anybody, but anybody, got any ideas?

That is the most useful summary anyone could need of the 75-page publication from the Securities and Investments Board on the \$1.8 billion Sumitomo scandal that convulsed the City earlier this summer. The curious fact was that the scandal made the front pages, and the public was aware that something awfully terrible had happened on the London Metal Exchange. But no one, outside that hermetically sealed world, with its own strange customs, rituals and dress code, could comprehend just what. It now appears that the SIB is

not much the wiser, even after months of investigation. The document is a useful bluffer's guide to the metals market, but it is short on recommendations. The SIB is playing for high stakes, because other exchanges around the world have been keen to use the implication that London is an unreformed thieves' den to poach business.

Sir Andrew Large, the SIB chairman, thinks the metals market should be transparent, fair, reliable and truthful. Undeniable, except that all markets thrive on a lack of transparency. There is nothing to gain if your trading partner knows exactly what you are up to. Deals that must be made in the full glare of daylight will inevitably go off-market, or to other exchanges. The SIB accepts this paradox, even if it is short of a resolution.

Two-way bet

A THOUGHT for IG Index, or any of those unofficial betting syndicates the City seems to breed when business is slack. After the non-appearance (yet again) of the gas regulator's deliberations on British Gas's pipelines business, which followed the non-appearance (yet again) of a Carlsberg-Tetley deal, how about a sweepstake on which appears first? The betting for both now starts next week.

Hanson hit by sharp fall in price of chemicals

BY CLARE STEWART

A SHARP fall in chemicals prices made a hole in third-quarter figures from Hanson, the Anglo-American conglomerate in the throes of a demerger.

Group pre-tax profits for the three months to June fell by 18 per cent, to £265 million, before exceptional charges, against last year's £324 million.

The impact of the poor chemicals performance had been expected by the City, although the results were at the lower end of analysts' forecasts. Proceeds of £448 million from four disposals boosted the overall profits figure to £713 million. The sale of businesses has taken Hanson, led by Lord Hanson, past its original £2 billion disposal target.

With Hanson's first demerger looming, Derek Popham, the chief executive, stressed that its demerger schedule was on track. Listings details on Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco Group are due next week, followed by a number of investor roadshows leading up to the deadline of October 1.

While operating profits in the chemicals division fell from £136 million to £70 million, there are signs of improve-

ment in Quantum Chemical, which makes polyethylene, acetyl and specialty polymer products, Mr Bonham said. "Price increases are beginning to come through. There is a strong demand for polyethylene so the conditions are right for price increases."

Conditions remain difficult for SCM, which manufactures titanium dioxide, the essential whitening ingredient used in paint, paper and plastics. Hanson has already announced reduction in capacity at a number of plants, but is hopeful that the worst is over and it plans to introduce price increases next month.

There was a strong contribution from Eastern Electricity as operating profits from the energy businesses rose from £40 million, to £103 million, in the three months. The operating result from tobacco showed an increase of 5.4 per cent, to £96 million. In spite of declining consumption in the UK, the division improved market share and lifted sales volume in Europe and other international markets.

Shares in Hanson fell 2p, to 166½p, reflecting the market's anticipation of the third-quarter figures.



Lord Hanson has exceeded a £2 billion disposal target

US rates quandary persists

A MIXED bag of American economic statistics left the markets none the wiser about what the US Federal Reserve is likely to decide on interest rates next week.

Suggestions of an economy losing momentum came from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Its index of manufacturing activity fell sharply in August and its monthly survey pointed to slowing activity in the second half of this year. This was a weaker report than Wall Street had expected.

Set against this was a slightly more robust than expected industrial production report. Production rose 0.1 per cent in July, against forecasts of a 0.1 per cent fall. In addition, weekly figures showed the number of people claiming benefit at a seven-year low. The Federal Open Market Committee meets on Tuesday to discuss whether to raise interest rates.

ISS chief quits

Poul Andreassen, founder director of ISS-International, resigned yesterday after the contract cleaning group, disclosed a net loss of £240 million for the first half of the year, against profits of £40 million previously.

ISS, based in Denmark, said £65 million of charges and provisions at its American division that were incurred through irregularities had been confirmed by accounting investigators and a need for a further £32 million had been identified.

Mr Andreassen, a former ISS chief executive, criticised the accounting methods of the ISS US division and said provisional investigations showed that ISS management and internal functions had not detected problems in its New York office.

ISS staff had falsified accounts "without personal gain", he said, and although he was not in any way legally answerable for the irregularities he accepted executive responsibility. ISS said the effect of the irregularities on its full-year result would depend on the outcome of talks to sell the majority of the American division.

Allders position

Allders, the department stores group, yesterday appointed Rod Ivey as finance director. He will take up the position on September 9 when Tony Collyer, the current finance director, leaves the group. Mr Ivey has been finance director of the Allders Department Stores division since 1990.

Fairey makes its largest buy with \$126m US deal

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

FAIREY GROUP, the industrial electronics and specialist engineering company, yesterday made its largest ever acquisition, buying the ultraviolet coating process division of Fusion Systems, the US company, for \$126 million.

John Poulter, Fairey chief executive, said the acquisition will enhance earnings this year. The deal is being funded with borrowings, including \$100 million raised from private placements with US institutions. Fairey will acquire net assets of \$25 million and there

will be a goodwill write-off of \$101 million. Shareholders' funds will become temporarily negative, the company said.

The group's interest charge should, however, be covered on a pro forma basis ten times. Fusion UV, the division that — subject to US antitrust regulatory approval — Fairey will acquire, makes ultraviolet lamps and equipment which are used to dry and finish special coatings used in the optical fibre, electronics and automotive sectors.

Fusion UV is the world's

largest supplier of the processing technology. In 1995, it reported net sales of \$51.1 million and adjusted pre-tax profits of \$10.1 million.

Through its acquisitions, Fairey has moved away from its traditional defence and aerospace business. It now focuses on high-technology, proprietary products.

Analysts moved their forecasts for 1997 up by about £1 million to between £54.7 million and £55.6 million.

Tempus, page 24

Hoare Govett says slowdown expected

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A BOOMING six months of bumper profits in London's investment banking industry is giving way to a sober second half of cooler market conditions. ABN Amro Hoare Govett said yesterday.

The UK arm of the Dutch banking group reported a sharp rise in first-half profits, buoyed by a surge in takeover bids and new issues and healthy stock market activity.

But Nick Bannister, Hoare Govett chief executive, said conditions may be much slower in the second half and questioned how sustainable the costly expansion plans of

F&C increases net asset value by 5%

BY OUR CITY STAFF

FOREIGN & COLONIAL, the UK's largest quoted investment trust, raised the value of its net assets by 5 per cent to £1.774 billion in the six months to June 30 and has raised its interim dividend 11 per cent to 0.7p a share.

The trust intends recommending a final dividend of at least 1.52p, making a total of 2.22p, an increase of 7.4 per cent on 1995. Net assets per share rose from 160.80p at the end of December to 168.82p. The shares yesterday rose 4p to 156½p, leaving them at a discount of 7.15 per cent to the value of the assets. Foreign &

Colonial's discount rose to 11 per cent during the half year when the trust was removed from the FT-SE 100 index to make way for United News & Media, Orange and Next. But special dividend payments from privatised electricity companies helped share to rise from 1.39p to 1.70p.

John Slater, chairman, said: "The benefit of a high exposure to the generally better performing overseas markets was partly offset by disappointments in our UK portfolio and the weakness of the Japanese yen."

BRIT chief joins Soros in hostile raid



MATTHEW HARDING, vice-chairman of Chelsea Football Club, has teamed up with George Soros, the billionaire speculator, to launch a hostile raid on the Lloyd's insurance market. HCG Lloyd's Investment Trust, which three weeks ago announced plans to merge with CLM Insurance Fund, has become the unwitting target of a higher offer.

Directors of CLM and HCG were agitated at yesterday's swoop by Benfield & Rea Investment Trust (BRIT), which values HCG at £78.2 million, or 120p per HCG share. There is a cash alternative of 117p per share. CLM's offer, described as a merger but effectively a takeover, values HCG at £78.2 million. HCG shareholders are offered 95 new CLM shares for every 100 shares held. Shares in HCG rose to 118p on the news. Mr Harding, chairman of BRIT, said that the new offer provided an immediate uplift in value to HCG shareholders. HCG was considering its response yesterday and advised shareholders to take no action for now. CLM insists that shareholders stand to reap substantial future value from its offer, which closes to acceptances on August 22.

BRIT's offer is underwritten in part by Quantum Partners, whose principal investment adviser, Soros Fund Management, holds 2.5 per cent of HCG. BRIT has 11.5 per cent of HCG, and claims, with concert parties, to speak for 27.9 per cent. Close to 60 per cent of HCG shareholders have indicated that they will back the offer, as opposed to the cash alternative, provided no higher bid emerges.

AKZO NOBEL

Akzo Nobel N.V. (formerly Akzo N.V.)
Registered Office at Arnhem, the Netherlands
Report for the 1st half of 1996*

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME		January-June 1995	
Millions of guilders (NLG)		1996	1995
Net sales	11,260	10,991	
Operating costs	(10,221)	(9,877)	
Operating Income	1,039	1,114	
Financing charges	(127)	(136)	
Operating income less financing charges	912	978	
Taxes	(260)	(286)	
Earnings of consolidated companies from normal operations, after taxes	652	692	
Earnings from nonconsolidated companies	64	77	
Minority interest	(17)	(20)	
Net income before extraordinary items	699	749	
Extraordinary items		40	
Net income	699	789	
Net income per share, in NLG	9.83	10.54	
- before extraordinary items	9.83	11.10	
- including extraordinary items			
Common stock, in thousands of shares	71,089	71,080	**

SALES AND OPERATING INCOME BY ACTIVITY				
Millions of guilders (NLG)				
Net sales	January-June 1996		January-June 1995	
	1996	1995	1996	1995
Chemicals	3,857	3,739	324	358
Coatings	3,661	3,494	274	271
Pharma	1,961	1,908	383	375
Fibers	1,797	1,874	60	97
Other activities and intercompany deliveries	(16)	(24)	(2)	13
Total	11,260	10,991	1,039	1,114

* The data in this report are unaudited ** At December 31, 1995

Sales and income
In the second quarter of 1996, Akzo Nobel's net income amounted to NLG 367 million, compared with NLG 384 million in the corresponding quarter of 1995, a 4 percent decrease. Operating income of NLG 545 million was 3 percent lower than the corresponding figure in 1995. Return on sales was 9.7 percent, against 10.4 percent last year. A considerable decline of Fibers' results was partly offset by an increased contribution from Coatings, while currency translation effects were positive. Sales were NLG 5.6 billion, up 4 percent from last year's second quarter. The increase breaks down into a 5 percent positive currency translation effect and 1 percent higher average selling prices on the one hand, and 2 percent lower volumes on the other. The net effect of acquisitions and divestments was practically nil.

Net income for the first six months
amounted to NLG 699 million, against NLG 789 million (including NLG 40 million of extraordinary income) in the same period of 1995. The corresponding per share amounts were NLG 9.83 and NLG 11.10 (NLG 10.54 before extraordinary income).

Outlook
In line with our expectations, the first half of 1996 was weaker than the same period of last year. On the assumption that the economy will gradually pick up, we maintain our earlier view that for the full year we will realize earnings — excluding extraordinary items — of the same order of magnitude as in 1995.

Arnhem, August 7, 1996
The Board of Management

Copies of the complete report may be obtained from the London Paying Agents: Barclays Global Securities Services, 8 Angel Court, Throgmorton Street, London EC2R 7HT and Midland Securities Service, Paying Agency Section, 5th Floor, Mariner House, Pepys Street, London EC3N 4DA. The report for the 3rd quarter of 1996 will be published on November 6.

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Prof from



Firmer gilts help shares to hold modest gains

BENIGN was the word used to describe the inflation figures that the City digested yesterday, and certainly the impact on the equity market was gentle.

Shares showed modest gains after the retail prices index numbers were released and held on to them through the day, helped by support from a firm gilts market.

The FT-SE 100 moved closer to its record close of 3,857.1. The index ended the day 21 points higher at 3,837.4, having briefly touched 3,843.3.

The market also took strength from futures-related buying, while it shrugged off the worst of a shaky morning on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average lost ground after the release of unexpectedly strong industrial production figures for last month.

While the FT-SE's rise was encouraging, traders noted that volume was exceptionally light and reiterated fears that prices could fall when real volume returns to the market. One leading dealer said: "Overall the market is exceptionally thin and it's been a bit squeaky."

Once the summer torpor ends, the market will have to contend with several negative factors, including an impending election and uncertainty about Labour policies, which will probably put a ceiling on gains.

Program traders boosted shares at the beginning of the week, and dealers said that some residue remained in the market yesterday.

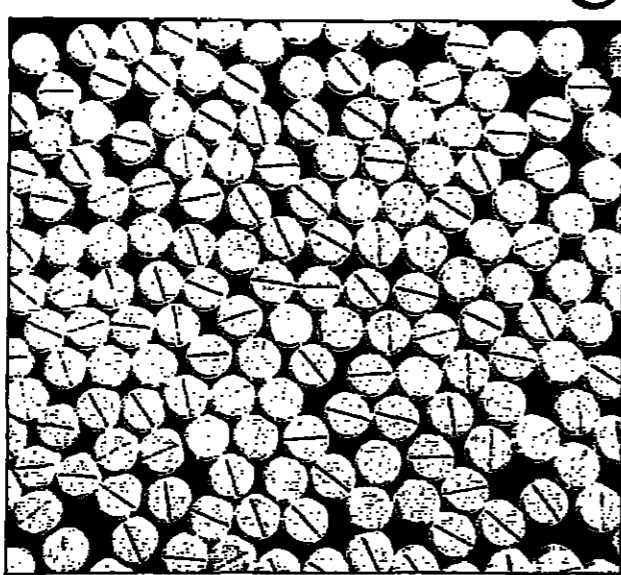
Orange was the biggest blue-chip winner of the day, climbing 7.5p to 187p to recoup some of its recent losses thanks to strong US buying overnight and reports of a buy recommendation on the stock by NatWest. The company is scheduled to report interim results on Tuesday.

Vodafone, a rival cellular telephone company, held steady at 240p.

Hanson managed to shake off the worst of its morning losses after revealing an 18 per cent fall in profits excluding extraordinary income. Shares closed at 166.5p, down 2p.

In the same sector, BTR lost 5.5p to 258p after ABN Amro Hoare Govett reduced its forecast for profits and dividends.

In contrast, buy ratings from SBC Warburg and Kleinwort



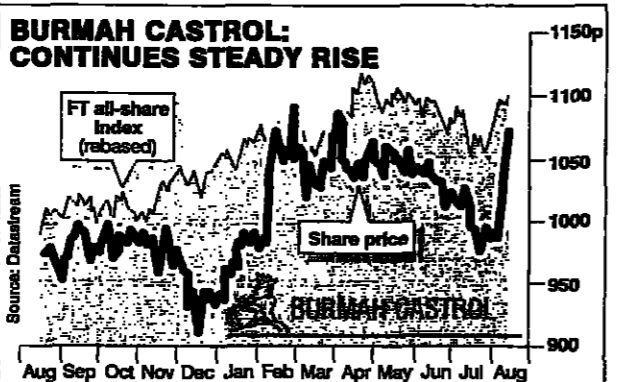
Zeneca rose to a new high after reaching a deal with Bayer

were behind the 30p rise in Charter shares to 87p.

Suggestions that Scottish TV and HTV were being eyed by Granada boosted shares in Scottish TV but not HTV. Scottish TV finished up 6p at 718p, while HTV ended down 6p to 353p, suggesting the market is more bullish about the prospects of a Scottish TV bid. Disappointment that Games Workshop's elves and warlocks may spin spells in fantasy war games, but they were not sufficient to prevent the shares tumbling 20p, or 4 per cent, to 427p in a round of profit-taking. Shares had risen earlier after the company reported strong results. Beeson Gregory has issued a buy recommendation.

Yorkshire-Tyane Tees was not on the Thorn stock list but horizon sent shares in the company down 38p to 123p. The expansion plans helped Granada to end the day 9p higher at 86p.

Dealers said bank shares were squeezed higher as the dividend season continued, leaving the sector with a shortage of stock. Bank shares have risen in recent days on the back of interim results and



BURMAH CASTROL CONTINUES STEADY RISE

Lyonnais Laing recommended the Thorn stock at 440p.

However, Cookson and Courtauld, both gained ground. With Thorn splitting into two companies, Cookson and Courtauld are both contenders for relegation from the top FTSE companies. Shares in Cookson edged up higher to 251p while Courtauld finished 4p higher at 441p.

Expectations of renewed bid

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE		
Sep	102-104	107-103
Dec	103-105	109-105
Mar	104-107	110-108
Jun	105-107	111-110
Jul	107-108	112-111
Sep	108-109	113-112

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		
1000	20.90	21.00
2500	20.85	20.95
5000	20.80	20.90
10000	20.75	20.85

offers for Lloyds Chemists lifted the shares 12p to 482p. Less firm bid speculation helped shares in Schroder NV 33p to 1,073p.

Flectech firmed 2p to 500p after initially losing ground on news that its Playboy TV operations had reported a £2.1 million first-half loss, pushing the group as a whole into the red for the six months.

The company said that Playboy TV's performance had been anticipated. Earlier this week, Flectech confirmed that it was discussing a joint venture with the BBC and that it was in talks with Pearson and Cox to acquire their stake in two Flectech cable television stations.

Burmah Castrol continued its steady climb higher after Strauss Turnbull described the shares as undervalued and Merrill Lynch repeated its positive position.

The shares touched an 1070p high after ending the day 14p higher at 1063p.

Profits warnings were behind two of the biggest share drops on the day. Gibbon gave up 26p cent, closing down 42p at 122p after saying that this year's first-half profits would trail last year's. Microvite ended the day down 24p cent, or 13p, at 40.5p after announcing disappointing first-half profits and saying that the performance in the second half was unlikely to be better.

RECENT ISSUES	
AND International	77 +10
Alzweg	46
Amer Opps U Ln	100
Bartolucci Health	66 -2
Chemical Design	148 +12
Dentmaster	4
Drings of Bath	4
Egypt Trust	677p
Electronic Retail	201 -12
Fayrewood	48
Gall Thomson Env	61
HT Emergent (163)	32
Harcourts Design	68
Hoare Govett 1000 C	97
Life Numbers	12
Life Numbers Wis	5
Lon & Edin Pmt	145
Lotteryking Wis	11
Lordium Foods Wis	13
Roydon Walters	13
SCI Entertainment	165
Schrod Em Cntrs 370	370
Schrod Em Cou Wis	36
Schrod Em Cou Wis	31
Selector	68
Somerfield (145)	157
West 175 Enter	125

In the futures pit, the September long gilt was two ticks higher at 107¹¹/₃₂ slender volume of 26,000. The Treasury's 8 per cent 2015 issue was unchanged at 98¹¹/₃₂. The 8 per cent 2000 firming a tick to 103¹¹/₃₂.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street headed lower again in early trading after a mini-rally, which was started by a weaker than expected Philadelphia Fed index, proved short lived. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.84 points at 5,665.04.

RISES:	
Frost Group	105p (+15p)
Reemore	118p (+16p)
MAID	287p (+16p)
Blacks Leisure	211p (+11p)
Capital Inds	192p (+10p)
Doylex	285p (+10p)

FALLS:	
Microvite	40p (-13p)
Fibrecom	50p (-10p)
Manders	237p (-13p)
Business Post	423p (-16p)
MMT Comp	483p (-17p)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES	
FT-SE 100	3841.00
Previous open interest: 6880	3841.00
FT-SE 250	4373.00
Previous open interest: 340	4373.00

MONEY RATES (%)	
Prime Bank Bills (3m)	5.75%
Discount Market Loans (Overnight)	5.75%
Treasury Bills (91-day)	5.75%

TEMPUS

Trusts in Lloyd's

WHAT do the vice-chairman of Chelsea Football Club and George Soros have in common? Answer: a belief that you can make good money out of the Lloyd's insurance market. The view is unusual: Lloyd's still suffers under the weight of popular prejudice that its house of cards will shortly be blown away.

The problem is that after all the fuss and litigation, Lloyd's remains a game for insiders and those with a nose have spotted value going cheap. Last month CLM Insurance Fund, a Lloyd's corporate capital trust, made an agreed bid for another such vehicle, HCG Lloyd's Investment Trust. Matthew Harding, the Chelsea FC vice-chairman, also heads up Benfield & Co Investment Trust (BRIT), a fund of funds which owns 11.5 per cent of HCG. BRIT took one look at the price offered by CLM, currently about 108p per share and

launched its own bid for HCG at 120p with the help of Soros's Quantum Fund.

Clearly, the directors of HCG, who welcomed CLM's offer, have some questions to answer. The net asset value of HCG is calculated by some at 110p but that excludes the latent profit in a Lloyd's trust. The delayed reporting of Lloyd's means that profits from underwriting arrive three years late and favourable underwriting periods in 1994 and 1995 suggest that HCG could be due some 13p per share of net profit over the next couple of years. Unless a third bidder emerges, BRIT looks set to win, not least because its own share price may be as undervalued as that of HCG. The outlook for the sector must include more takeovers, a process that should eventually lead to a Lloyd's more dominated by companies than befuddled individuals.

Flectech

FLECTECH has never made money and, if it can get away with it, probably never will. This should come as no surprise. Tele-Communications Inc its half owner, has never let the profit principle interfere in its drive to become one of the world's most powerful cable and media companies. John Malone, TCI's boss, once famously said that he would fire any finance director who tells him the company is profitable. Roger Laund, his counterpart at Flectech, has apparently adopted the same philosophy.

Flectech has become the second-largest source of pay-TV channels in Britain, after BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster. It owns, has stakes in or manages some 13 channels, including UK Gold and The Children's Channel, and

is in negotiations with the BBC to launch half a dozen BBC channels for the paying public.

Flectech's scorn for the bottom line has not been bad for investors. The shares have well outperformed the market over the past year and should continue to do so as the demand for specialty channels increases. One concern is Flectech's ever more complex ownership structure. Pearson and Cox are the verge of swapping their stakes in the UK Gold and UK Living channels for ownership in Flectech itself, a move that would put them in line with TCI, US West and Hallmark. So many big egos crammed into a small company could lead to friction.

Fairly

INVESTORS in Fairly are used to acquisitions - the company has bagged 10 businesses in the last five years. They should feel comfortable with Fusion yesterday's purchase of Fusion UV Systems which looks another shrewd move.

At £30 million Fusion is its biggest purchase to date but Fusion's products fit within Fairly which specialises in gadgets which improve the efficiency of manufacturing processes. Fusion makes specialised ultraviolet lamps used in the production of fibre optic cables - a fast-expanding market. UV technology is also becoming widely used in the automotive industry. The deal should marginally enhance earnings this year with a bigger impact next year.

By funding the acquisition with debt, Fairly will be left with negative net assets but that should not unduly worry investors. Fairly is not an asset play but an earnings

driven business, and more important, it is highly cash generative.

On forecast profits of £54.7 million for 1997, the shares are on a multiple of 16.2 times forecast earnings. That is an 18 per cent premium to the market but on past performance Fairly should make fusion more than pay its way.

Hanson

HANSON looks a bit like an old freighter battering its way through a storm towards the home port. The ship was listing badly and the captain has jettisoned some of the less valuable cargo to put it back on an even keel. However, seawater has penetrated the rest of the cargo, reducing its value. The captain is worried that the ship may be damaged further but he cannot alter course now and weather reports forecast that the storm will last for the rest of the voyage.

Since their company set its course on demerger into four

Hanson investors can only sit back and wait for the outcome, like the owners of the ship and the cargo. Most City breakup valuations of Hanson prior to the shares between 160p and 170p, roughly where the price stands today. Meanwhile, investors must endure the squeeze on chemical margins and the possibility - however remote - that the merged Imperial Tobacco will suffer from US-inspired damages claims from smokers.

Assuming City valuations of Hanson are correct and with no clear sign that their markets will enjoy a significant bounce, the upside for the four companies looks slim. Nor does management provide an argument to invest: Hanson always boasted that its policy was to give rein to its divisional captains. That offers little reason to buy Hanson until the ship has docked and the cargo unloaded and inspected.

Since their company set its course on demerger into four

DOLLAR RATES	
Australia	1.2800-1.2809
Belgium	1.0400-1.0409
Canada	1.0000-1.0009
France	1.6667-1.6676
Germany	1.4815-1.4824
Hong Kong	7.7340-7.7349
India	46.2500-46.2509
Japan	107.89-107.94
Malaysia	2.4910-2.4919
Netherlands	1.6667-1.6676
Portugal	4.1515-4.1524
Spain	162.40-162.50
Sweden	6.9225-6.9234
Switzerland	1.2800-1.2809

OTHER STERLING	
Argentina peso	1.5310-1.5319
Australia dollar	1.9897-1.9906
Brazil real	1.5800-1.5809
Canada dollar	1.0000-1.0009
China yuan	8.2700-8.2709
Czech koruna	1.6667-1.6676
Denmark krone	6.5596-6.5605
France franc	6.5596-6.5605
Germany mark	1.6667-1.6676
Hong Kong dollar	7.7340-7.7349
India rupee	46.2500-46.2509
Indonesia rupiah	162.40-162.50
Italy lire	2036.40-2036.50
Japan yen	107.89-107.94
Malaysia ringgit	2.4910-2.4919
New Zealand dollar	1.6667-1.6676
Philippine peso	46.2500-46.2509
Saudi riyal	3.7500-3.7509
Singapore dollar	7.7340-7.7349
South African rand	6.5596-6.5605
Swedish krona	6.9225-6.9234
Swiss franc	1.2800-1.2809
Taiwan dollar	162.40-162.50
UK pound	1.0000-1.0009
US dollar	1.0000-1.0009
Yugoslav dinar	13.6363-13.6372

LIFE INSURANCE											
Series	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
AA	420	410	400	390	380	370	360	350	340	330	320
AAA	410	400	390	380	370	360	350	340	330	320	310
AA-	400	390	380	370	360	350	340	330	320	310	300

August 15, 1996 The Times 0200 42883 Call 27353 Fax 18779 FT-SE Call 10722 Fax 4444 Underlying security prices

Shares squeeze ahead in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Table of stock prices for sectors including MINING, OIL & GAS, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, and WATER.

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EDINBURGH

Scottish urban angst is diagnosed in wickedly funny style in *Shining Souls*



EDINBURGH

Beautiful dancers lay themselves (almost) bare as Nederlands Dans Theater visits the festival

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

Nicholas Daniel is the soloist in the premiere of John Woolrich's fine Oboe Concerto at the Proms



THEATRE

A stunning new jazz cabaret show, *Three Ms Behaving*, opens at the Tricycle

Bonnie Scotland? No, not this one

THEATRE: A bracing brace of plays at the Traverse reveals the droll, desperate face of Scottish urban life to Benedict Nightingale

You get one idea of Scotland if, in search of a souvenir sporr...



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Traverse, then maybe go to bed with a copy of *Train-spotting*...

That line comes from *Shining Souls* which, like *The Architect*...

Consider the odd, overlapping sets of characters...

plans to marry someone called Billy this very afternoon...

With Stuart McQuarrie's marvellously ineffective Charlie blustering...

The Traverse's departing director, Ian Brown...

will not dip. Certainly Greig's



Alison Peebles and Molly Innes in Chris Hannan's troubled but funny *Shining Souls*

play, though without the sparkling originality of *Shining Souls*...

The architect is Leo Black, whose *chef-d'oeuvre* is a tower complex...

faraway towns. His wife is suffering from a sort of late-life anorexia...

Dark, confused emotions surround Alexander Morton's decent but blinkered architect...

his buildings, threaten to lay him low. His rigidity, personal and professional, is destroying him.

That no doubt needs saying, but what makes Greig more than a self-consciously worthy moralist...

In thrall to the movement of emotion

Run for the past 20 years by the Czech-born Jiri Kylian, the Hague-based Nederlands Dans Theater...

All but one of the seven pieces on show in two programmes at Edinburgh are by Kylian. The first programme offers him as he was in 1978...

DANCE

Nederlands Dans Theater Playhouse, Edinburgh

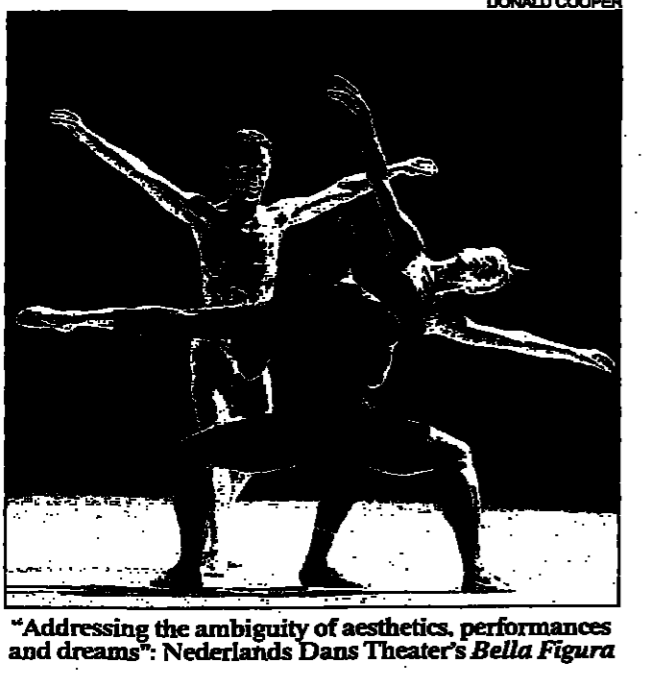
often half-naked - are trapped in an endless tension of uncertainty. Despite the fascination with doubt in *Bella Figura*'s philosophical conception...

The music - selections from Lukas Foss and Italian Baroque - was taped, as all the music was for programme one.

Kylian seems to choose his scores for their emotive atmospheres; only rarely does he directly refer to musical specifics in his choreography.

When he does, as in his seminal *Symphony of Passions* from 1978, the result can be captivating.

DEBRA CRAINE



"Addressing the ambiguity of aesthetics, performances and dreams": Nederlands Dans Theater's *Bella Figura*

LONDON CONCERTS: An oboe concerto premiered at the Proms; and a lively Baroque show on the South Bank

Too good for the dustbin

JOHN WOOLRICH has had two major works premiered this summer. After the cool reception given to his opera *In the House of Crossed Desires* at Cheltenham...

BBC SO/Bamert Albert Hall/Radio 3

poser calls for a massive percussion battery that includes tin cans, dustbin, oxygen cylinder, car wheels, anvils and "lion's roar".

balanced by long sustained notes. Matthias Bamert steered the BBC Symphony Orchestra through the work's shifting pulses impressively.

No time for the sedate

Florilegium Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE programme Florilegium, one of the most flamboyant of the younger generation of British Baroque ensembles, brought to the South Bank's early music festival was entitled *L'Europe Galant*...

on this occasion by restricting the accompaniment of the solo flute entries to cello and theorbo.

It was something of a relief to shift into the gentler idiom of a flute concerto in D by Leclair and Telemann's Paris Quartet No 3 in A. Here the ensemble's flair was much in evidence without having recourse to extreme gestures.

Handwritten signature 'John Woolrich' at the bottom of the page.

LONDON THEATRE: Jazz cabaret and crisp comedy

Torch songs to burn holes in your soul

Three Ms Behaving Tricycle, NW6

SWISH, sassy and swell. This jazz cabaret show is a mighty enjoyable, accomplished sequel to *Ain't Misbehavin'*...

The set's white lounge, with palm trees printed across the sofa and bar, is not as classy as the act.

However, an embryonic story does emerge. Whether they are on the champer's circuit or in some drawing New Orleans dive...

KATE BASSETT

They belong in a home

The Marriage of Bette and Boo Latchmere, SW11

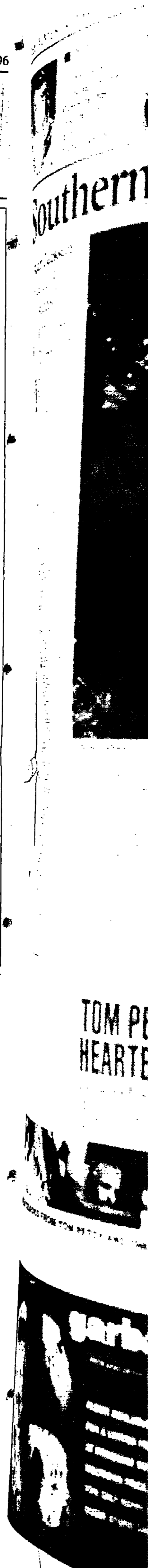
THE first version of Christopher Durang's play lasted 45 minutes, and such hopeful thespians as Sigourney Weaver and Meryl Streep played the mothers-in-law.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ONE YEAR FULL-TIME PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE KINGSTON UNIVERSITY

NORTHBOURNE PARK School Urgent Ecole privée en pleine expansion...

EDWARD GREENE'S TUTORIAL ESTABLISHMENT OXFORD Oxford's oldest tutorial establishment...





POP 1 At the age of 13, could LeAnn Rimes be the new, polished face of country music?



POP 2 Love is a many-anguished thing, at least as documented on a Throwing Muses lyric

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 3 Manic punk intensity wedded to literate lyrics? It must mean the return of Nick Cave



TOMORROW From Wagner to the tango: Daniel Barenboim talks about his remarkable new passion

Southern fried spring chicken

Alan Jackson on LeAnn Rimes, a successful country singer at the age of 13



With her album Blue riding high in the American charts, LeAnn is being hailed as a worthy successor to the late, great Patsy Cline

I used to be said that advanced age was upon you when policemen began to look young. Nowadays anyone older than 20 is apt to feel geriatric when watching tennis stars or gymnasts. And it seems that we must add popular music stars to the list of precocious high achievers.

The promotional video sent out to the British media to introduce us to LeAnn Rimes is so strange, so uniquely American, that it could almost be a satire scripted and directed by Robert Altman. It offers us footage of the Mississippi-born, Dallas-raised singer dressed up like a wedding cake and performing to roaring crowds at the age of five. And it contains testimony from record company personnel to how this preternaturally mature child — she is groomed like a cosmetics saleswoman, with the professional charm of an air stewardess — sounds uncannily like the late C&W icon Patsy Cline (at moments, it is true, she does).

stable adulthood could be more difficult. Although Tucker's worldly-wise voice and ingenué charm brought her an unexpected place on the cover of Rolling Stone within her first year as a public figure, her hits have remained confined to the country market. Last week, Rimes's album Blue was at No 3 in the Billboard pop chart.

her parents and her label, Curb, is a driving force in her own extraordinary success story. She won her first talent show at the age of five and, thrilled by the reception accorded her, announced to her parents that she wanted a career in showbusiness. Many fathers would have given their daughter a dismissive pat. Instead, Wilbur Rimes sold the truck with which he made his living to finance the family's move to Texas, home of the C&W establishment. LeAnn is said to have been runner-up for the lead in a Broadway production of Annie at six. At eight, she won two weekly weeks of American television's Opportunity Knocks equivalent, Star Search. Ever since she has been honing her craft through

live appearances across the southern states. The song which has won her those comparisons with Patsy Cline, meanwhile, is the title track of her new LP, Blue. The much-seized-upon media hook is that it was written 35 years ago by a country music DJ, Bill Mack, who hoped that Cline herself might record it. The singer was killed shortly afterwards in a plane crash and the track lay dormant, so it is said, until Mack heard the uncanny echo in Rimes's voice as she sang The Star-Spangled Banner before a Dallas Cowboys football game.

though. Her tones are big, smooth and sure, and if she shows few real interpretive skills, that is hardly surprising. Says her father, "Once she gets her heart broke, look out." Meanwhile, if she feels the need for additional guidance as her career goes into overdrive, Rimes might do worse than look to Morissette. She, too, released her first record while a pre-teen and enjoyed fame of a more limited sort as a Canadian pop-dance star while still at school. Her revulsion at having been preened and packaged for mass consumption finally surfaced on the album Jagged Little Pill — and, ironically, brought her today's multi-platinum status.

Love is the drug for me

Throwing Muse Kristin Hersh swaps angst and callow cravings for a fix of the strong stuff: uncut adoration

Oh, the high aching drama of being in love... is nothing compared to the daily obsessions of Being A Lover. Being "in love" is the first six months, the first year, maybe — too polite to argue, too in awe to get really dirty. Being in love is all treats and prizes and explosions — each day an anniversary, each night a party. Being in love is as easy as falling off a log. Easier, in fact, since most logs now have stringent safety precautions owing to EU directives.



CAITLIN MORAN

Being A Lover, on the other hand, is the real deal. A touch of the hard stuff. After two years of sleeping and waking tangled around each other, you're so close that there's no need for the thrill of acting or pretending any more: the bathroom door stays open. Your lingerie stays in the drawer. Children appear. The house slowly falls down around you and you never really seem to "do" anything any more, but there's the glory in this twinning — to see just how entirely you can sleep together. To see how much love you can make. When Bjork spoke recently of her relationship with Goldie, she said: "We go to bed at night, and when we wake there's 59 tons of love." It's something you sense that Kristin Hersh would understand implicitly.

you?/Because I'd kill to be you" she croons at one point, setting the pace for the rest of the album. Limbo, the Muses' eighth album, is a deep, lush treat, driven by the pounding clockwork of the body's rhythms and steered by Hersh's purring, roaring poetry. Her voice slides from nought to sixty in a second — here like a comforting breast; there like fingernails across the back.

Hersh has spoken before about seeing love as a feverish, sweating drug: the first kiss is the first hit, and after that you come back and back again, increasing the dose, until you suddenly have leaptos with "Happy 50th Anniversary" scrolled on them in gold. Deep, lion-strong, love is such an everyday miracle that you don't get shocked by it any more — but Limbo serves to remind you anew of the awe of it. "Having children is a good reminder," Hersh reasons. "Well, a good reminder there was nothing on TV that night. I'm pregnant at the moment, and it's weird — a mix of being more animal and more spiritual."

Pop and jazz record reviews are on Page 32

TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS INCLUDING SONGS AND MUSIC FROM THE MOTION PICTURE SHE'S THE ONE



15 NEW TRACKS FROM TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS

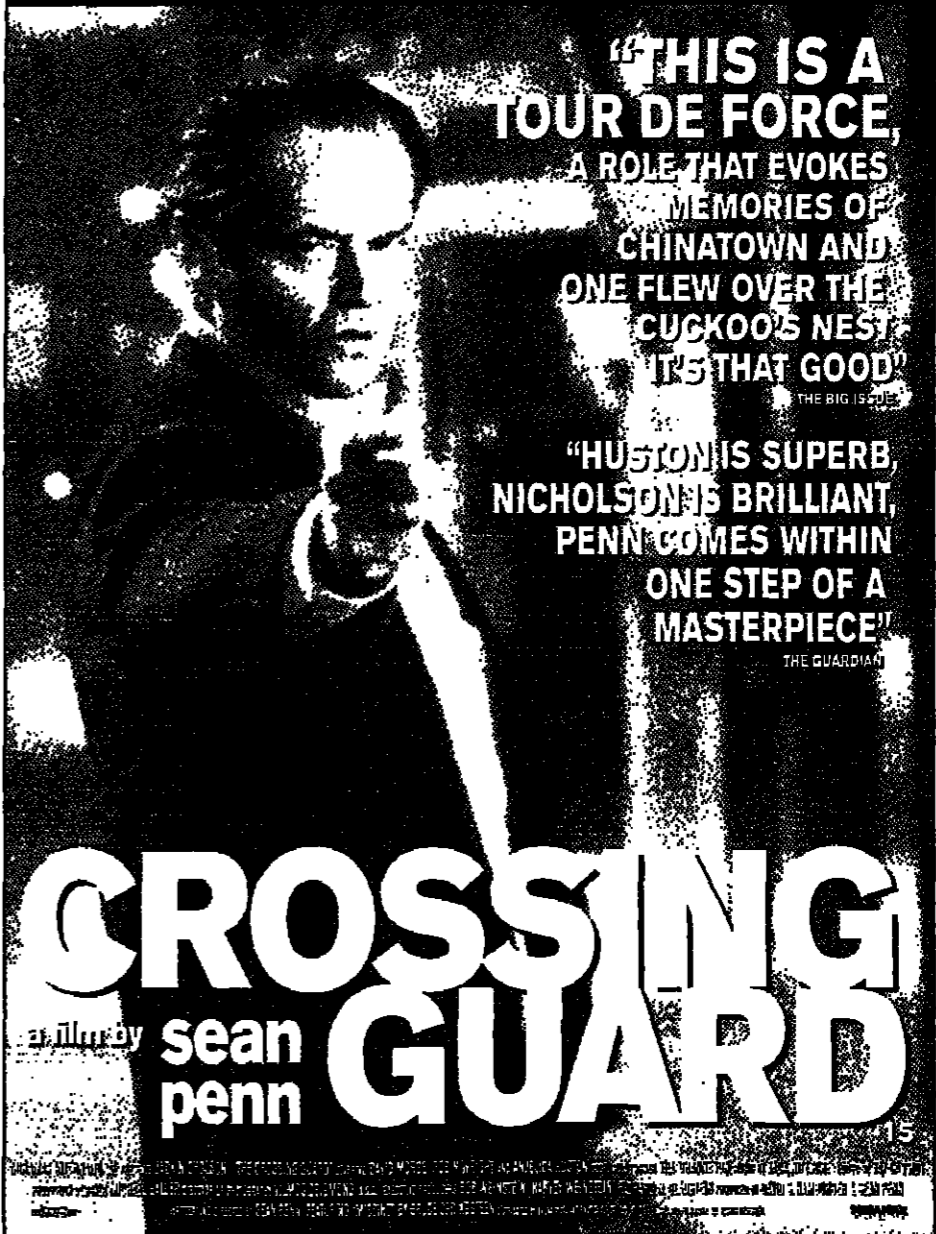
LIVE GIG Ballads of fire and brimstone

Nick Cave Brixton Academy

EVERYBODY wore black at Brixton, crowd and band alike. Everybody except Nick Cave, that is, proudly prowling the stage in his shiny silver lounge suit. The singer's core audience of vampiric misfits and grey-templed Bohemians clearly have some catching up to do, because Nick is already halfway to Las Vegas.

Indeed, their opening salvo at Brixton was a raked update of traditional folk yarn Stagger Lee, given a sadistically homoerotic twist and propelled by a pounding primitive beat.

jack nicholson david morse robin wright anjelica houston



"THIS IS A TOUR DE FORCE, A ROLE THAT EVOKES MEMORIES OF CHINATOWN AND ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST. IT'S THAT GOOD."

CROSSING GUARD

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garbage ALBUM AVAILABLE ON TAPE FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY AT DRIVEAWAY SUMMER MELTDOWN PRICE. YOU ONLY HAPPY WHEN IT RAINS QUEER STUPID GIRL INVESTIGATE.

CHOICE The brilliant Russian pianist Evgeny Kissin plays in Edinburgh VENUE: Tonight at the Usher Hall

POP ALBUM 1 Hip-hop heroes Cypress Hill cash in with a collection of previously unheard material

THE ARTS POP ARTS

POP ALBUM 2 The shamefully under-recorded Scottish folk singer Dick Gaughan releases a fine new CD

POP SINGLE If Your Girl Only Knew confirms the "street but sweet" promise of Aaliyah

EDINBURGH Today's events include a night by the virtuoso pianist Evgeny Kissin (Usher Hall, 8pm), while the distinguished baritone Tom Krause performs songs by Schubert, Strauss, Sibelius, Mussorgsky (Queen's Hall, 11am). Meanwhile, the International Conference Centre is the venue for the first performance of John McEwan's (Usher Hall, 8pm), while the distinguished baritone Tom Krause performs songs by Schubert, Strauss, Sibelius, Mussorgsky (Queen's Hall, 11am). Meanwhile, the International Conference Centre is the venue for the first performance of John McEwan's (Usher Hall, 8pm), while the distinguished baritone Tom Krause performs songs by Schubert, Strauss, Sibelius, Mussorgsky (Queen's Hall, 11am).

WEEKEND CHOICE A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

Top tip for hip-hop

CYPRESS HILL Unreleased & Revamped EP (Ruffhouse/Columbia 485220 2) LABELMATES to the Fugees and with sales in excess of six million for three past albums, the three-man Cypress Hill capitalise on their recent Phoenix Festival appearance with the release of this nine-track EP of remixed or previously unavailable material. A cynical marketing ploy? Evidence of a dearth of new ideas? Not entirely. With mainstream consumer awareness of the band still limited, Unreleased & Revamped acts as a kind of alternative Greatest Hits: it presents existing work in more listener-friendly wrappings - a good move considering hip-hop's current chart muscle.

Variety as you like it

LEON PARKER Believe (Columbia 485138 2) UNLIKE many drummer leaders, New Yorker Leon Parker is less interested in power, energy and technical mastery than in delicacy of touch, juxtaposition of unusual combinations of instruments and the achieving of almost pop-like accessibility. Instead of the increasingly complex kits favoured by many contemporary jazz drummers, his is frequently stripped down to just bass and snare drum and the odd cymbal or hi-hat, but generates enough light, infectious swing with it to power both the straightforward jazz tracks and the more eccentric, world music-influenced material in which he specialises. The former typically employs the warm flugelhorn of Tom Harrell and the surfed-out alto of Steve Wilson in neat arrangements; the latter ranges from hypnotic Zap Mama-like vocal refrains, through African instrumental featuring flute and hand drums or balafon and mbira, to catchy steel-drum themes. Jazz and world music sometimes combine to sweetly plangent effect; more frequently, they are separate but complementary each other to produce an enjoyable, varied album.



Cypress Hill: their new nine-track EP constitutes "an alternative Greatest Hits"

THE ASPEN PAPERS: Michael Redgrave's slightly off-kilter version of the Henry James tale of literary skulduggery. With Hannah Gadsby, Daniel J. Travanti, Mike Lester, Wynne Evans, Cheryl Cross, Ross Welford. WC2 (0171-369 1735) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 8pm, Sat 8pm.

PAINT YOUR WAGON: Some catchy Lennon-Love songs and energetic playing but the old wagon creeps. Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-496 2437). Tonight-Tue, 8pm; Sat 2.30pm. In rep.

THE CROSSING GUARD (16): Growing father/son relationship plots revenge for his daughter's death. Powerful drama from writer-director Sean Penn. Chazara West End (0171-369 1722) Ritz (0171-737 2121)

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: Kathryn Erbe and Michael N. Harbour play volatile movie star and estranged director in the 1970s. On Broadway, 110 W 46th St, New York City. Tickets from \$25.

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VARIOUS ARTISTS Sugar & Poison (Virgin CD AMBT16) COMPILED by the critic and musician David Toop as part of Virgin's continuing series of ambient or mood-music releases, this 26-track double-CD collection proves emphatically that soul balladry has a lot more to offer than just the champagne-and-satin-sheets clichés of popular bias. In bringing together both the relatively familiar (Isaac Hayes's Never Can Say Goodbye, Smokey Robinson's sublimine Cruisin') and the often overlooked (Passionate Breezes by Charles Jackson, say) it counterpoints examples of sensual ecstasy with those of emotional agony, sometimes to heart-lurching effect. Any set featuring well-chosen performances by, among others, Johnny "Guitar" Watson, Al Green, Dennis Edwards and Tashan has to be worth investigation. One which also includes Allen Toussaint's original of a Glen Campbell country hit, South-North, and Chic's glorious At Last I Am Free has to be worth buying.

DICK GAUGHAN Sail On (Greentax CDTRAX 109) ONE OF Scotland's finest folk voices but criminally under-recorded, Dick Gaughan has not released an album since 1988's Call It Freedom. This long-overdue set for the small, East Lothian-based independent label, Greentax, is so good it highlights the waste of talent. "This record is intended to be a shout of hope in troubled times," he writes in the sleeve notes. And by mixing the well-known (Ruby Tuesday) with the new and self-written (his title track, in particular, is an inspirational joy), Gaughan proves the continuing relevance of the genre. CHRISTIE HENNESSY The Box (WEA 0630-14602-2) IF Dick Gaughan represents a fiercely opinionated, almost protest-singer style of folk music, then Ireland's Christie Hennessy is its gently melodious, near-whimsical opposite. With a voice that at times sounds eerily like that of Cat Stevens, he can stray uncomfortably close to cuteness. But on this album he manages to avoid tipping over the edge. At heart, one senses, he is not an entertainer but a storyteller: his best songs have a narrative drive that tempers the tremulous vocal sweetness. He is even better, here, when negotiating a lyric in company: Hermione Lee harmonises with him beautifully on I'm Going To Make It On My Own.

AALIYAH If Your Girl Only Knew (Background/Atlantic 7587-95669-2 AS669 CD) HER PRECOCIOUS 1994 debut album, Age Ain't Nothin' But a Number, sold more than a million copies and whetted appetites for this, the first single from a soon-to-be-released successor. Now 17, Aaliyah has a musical style best described as "street-but-sweet"; her silky soul-voice slides across edgy R&B grooves with libidinous intent, but stops short of come-hither self-parody. The originals are either tricky themes with sudden teasing passages or densely harmonised arrangements for guitar, flute, bass clarinet and trombone. They showcase Osby's forceful but oddly slouching alto perfectly. It is the standards, however, which grant true gravitas to this fine, adventurous album.

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EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker can stake his Derby claim on Gammon

By Jenny MacArthur

HAVING been without a ride for the Silk Cut Derby on Sunday, Michael Whitaker has now been offered his brother John's Derby specialist, Gammon, for the event, in addition to Touchdown, the Irish-bred stallion he has been lent by James Kerman.

Results

"John won't mind," Michael Whitaker said. "Anyway, Claire's the boss." Not many riders would turn down the offer. Gammon, the 18-year-old former winner of the Hamburg Derby, has competed in the Hickstead Derby seven times. He finished joint second in 1992 and was runner-up last year after a jump-off against John Ledingham, of Ireland, on Kibaha, who is the favourite this year.

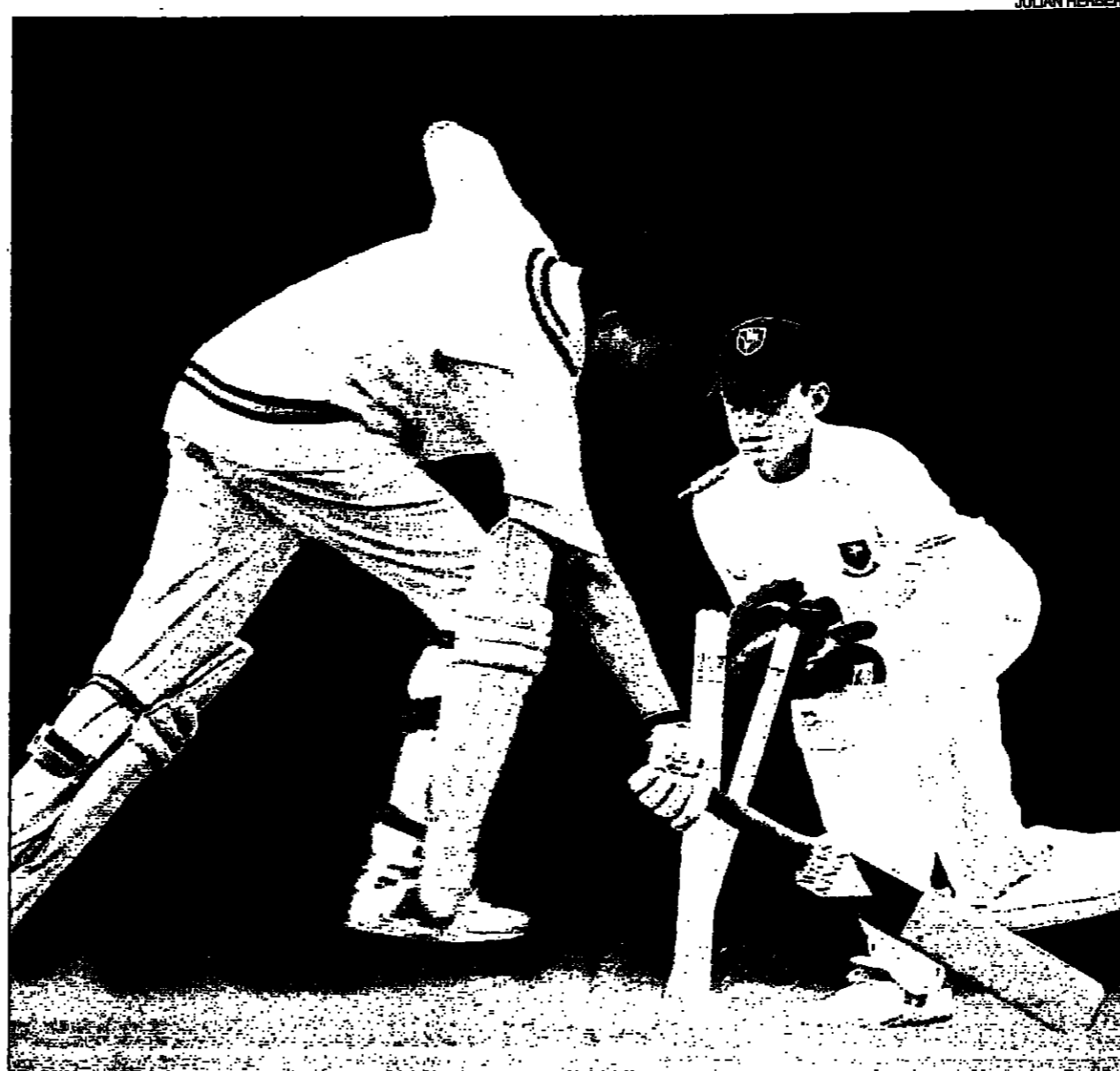
Inner belief in fostering neglected talent

Alan Lee reports on a drive to bring cricket back to the underprivileged teenagers of Britain

GENTEEL Arundel is a world away from the deprivation of the inner cities, which was the most pertinent reason for its use this week as the headquarters of an unusual cricket event.

Cricket has been withering in the cities for a generation, as diminishing space has been compounded by lack of facilities and coaching skills in schools. Most games are easier to organise, no games at all still easier.

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Zahid Iqbal, the Nottingham batsman, narrowly avoids being run out in the final against Cardiff yesterday

important as anything in our development programme. We are giving attention to neglected areas.

This is a great adventure for them. Modern youth embraced modern cricket with enthusiasm. There were plenty of earnest and ponytailed on show and a good many unessential batting helmets.

important as anything in our development programme. We are giving attention to neglected areas.

important as anything in our development programme. We are giving attention to neglected areas.

India secure Lord's appearance

AFTER being second best to South Africa for much of the first Lombard World Challenge semi-final at Trent Bridge yesterday, India held their nerve to ease into the final next Tuesday at Lord's with three overs and five wickets to spare.

chasing 263 to win and it was Sierra again who grabbed centre stage. Opening the bowling, he claimed the wickets of both India openers.

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England struggle to cope with Sewell

By Rupert Cox

WORCESTER (first day of four: England Under-19 won toss); New Zealand Under-19, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 48 runs behind England Under-19

DAVID SEWELL, the New Zealand Under-19 left-arm seamer, exploited some uneven bounce on a re-laid New Road wicket yesterday to collect the best figures by a New Zealand bowler at this level against England.

Admittedly the bounce was not always consistent, but the England batsmen were visibly more unsettled by the wicket than New Zealand. As early as the third over, David Roberts, the Northamptonshire opener, was enticed into hooking at a delivery from Sewell that had bounced too steeply, and the resulting top-edge was well taken at fine leg.

The chance of building a large total had effectively passed, but with Owais Shah, reprieved on 17, joined by Ben Hollis, a respectable total remained within their capabilities.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Britain face loss of key trio

By Christopher Irvine

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is consulting its lawyers, but it is not obvious what it can do to get a ban imposed by the Australian Rugby League (ARL) on Gary Connolly and Jason Robinson, stopping them from representing Great Britain.

Table with 2 columns: Race name and details. Includes 2.20 Ken and Nick Bright Photography, 2.50 Sunline Direct Mail Handicap, 2.50 Plumridge Selling Stakes, 2.50 Honeysuckle Maiden Handicap.

BOWLS

Lindores gets back on route to final

By Gordon Allan

JOYCE LINDORES, of Scotland, continued her progress towards the final with two more victories in the women's world singles championship at Leamington Spa yesterday.

Putting the defeat by Judy Howat, of New Zealand, the previous day out of her mind, Lindores overhauled Maria Vasquez, of Argentina, 2-1 and then, after an arduous match, beat Dorothy Panlari, of the Cook Islands, 2-1.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION No 003883 of 1996

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 11 July 1996 submitted to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in England by The Canada Life Assurance Company of Great Britain Limited ("CLG") for an order under Part 1 of Schedule 2C to the Insolvency Companies Act 1986 (as amended) ("the Act") appointing a receiver ("the Receiver") to transfer to The Canada Life Assurance Company (UK) Limited ("CLUK") of the whole of the long term insurance business carried on by CLG and making provision for related matters in accordance with paragraph 5 of the said Part 1.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND SECURED PARTIES TO BE HELD IN CLARENCE CHAMBERS ACT 1986 (AS AMENDED) (NOTICE TO CREDITORS) IN RE THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MISS MARGARET MARY WATSON

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Yorkshire made to offer again by Walsh

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

CRICKET

Yorkshire made to suffer again by Walsh

By JACK BAILEY

BRISTOL (first day of four. Yorkshire won toss): Gloucestershire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 45 runs ahead of Yorkshire

FOR Yorkshire, it was the worst possible combination of events. Striving to pick themselves up after two successive county championship defeats and, most recently, defeat in the semi-final of the NatWest Trophy, and without Michael Bevan, their doggy Australian, they were to toss and choose to bat on a pitch full of bounce. Worse, they encountered Courtney Walsh determined upon doing his wicked worst and were bowled out for 166.

Then, on a pitch that had lost its early devil, Andrew Symonds, at long last batting at first instead of fourth-wicket down, joined Matthew Windons in a partnership of 108

in a partnership of 98 from 25 overs, kept Gloucestershire at bay.

White went on to make an excellent 74, but in the process of nursing the Yorkshire tail through the final Welsh onslaught, he suffered his fifth painful blow at the hands of the big West Indies bowler, this time on the forearm instead of the fingers, and was bowled next ball. An X-ray revealed no fracture but severe bruising, and he eventually took his place in the field. All in all, a bad day for Yorkshire. Not that they are unused to them when Gloucestershire are their opponents. Not since 1987 have they beaten them and you have to go back to 1975 to find the last occasion when they emerged victorious from a visit to the West County.

Even so, it is a long time since Yorkshire had a worse start to a championship match. The tenth ball of the day saw Vaughan trapped leg-before to Smith's inswinger and, four balls later, Moxon was caught at third slip fending off a steep lifter from Walsh. Only four runs on the board, and three slips and two gullies posted for Walsh.

The first of these gullies, Hancock, snapped up Byas; McGrath went in similar fashion to Vaughan; Kettleborough went to the classic combination — a steep riser followed by a full, fast yorker. When Smith bowled White, the end seemed nigh, but it was a no-ball and Yorkshire breathed again. They continued to breathe for some time as White and Blakey combined in a sixth-wicket partnership of much resolution.

Blakey cursed himself for getting out to Davis, bowling a statutory last over before lunch. By then, White had reached his half-century from 67 balls with nine fours and, thereafter, he continued to play his shots even as Walsh reaped his final harvest.

Gloucestershire, although losing six wickets, batted, as they say, properly, in obtaining a slender lead.

Windows, now more than a fine prospect, batted solidly while Symonds stopped the ball around to the tune of a six and 11 fours. Lynch's 36 was sharp and to the point until he drove over a straight run. This was good news for Yorkshire.



Walsh: six wickets

and went on to make 75 from 102 balls. You never can tell with Gloucestershire's batting — they have already lost six wickets in gaining a slender lead — but Yorkshire will not relish the sight of Walsh steaming in again.

Walsh made the ball lift sharply. He took six wickets for 22 runs in two quite devastating spells of fast bowling. His first sally, in harness with Mike Smith, ripped open the Yorkshire batting. Yorkshire lost their first five wickets in reaching 15 runs after 23 balls were bowled.



Salisbury, who claimed four for 62 in 23.4 overs, celebrates a successful leg-before appeal against Crookes

Jones capitalises on missed chances

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

DERBY (first day of four. Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire have made 310 for eight against Nottinghamshire

DEAN JONES has done Derbyshire proud this year as captain and batsman and yesterday he added a plum to his handsome career basket. The Victorian's fifth first-class hundred enabled his side to achieve a decent score on a pitch that offered the seam bowlers considerable assistance, a point that Dominic Cork will have noted as he brightened the early evening with a notably well-struck half-century.

Dropped on ten, 62 and 94.

Jones was leg-before to Bowen after reaching his tenth century of the season. It was his fourth hundred in the championship, equalling his Sunday performance, and he has made one in each of the two knockout competitions.

Derbyshire have certainly had their money's worth and, with five wins from their past seven championship matches, they are already well-placed to add another victory here. Jones was assisted by some woeful fielding and, long before the end of the day, Nottinghamshire looked what they are — a sorry bunch. Four successive championship defeats, and a single win in the last 19, tells its own story. Clearly there will have to be a

reckoning at the end of what has been an appalling season. Only Cairns showed any fire yesterday and he looked thoroughly fed-up when he was not bowling.

Quite what Evans was dreaming of when he spared Jones at second slip, early in the day, heaven knows. The ball came at an easy height, and down it went: what a ricket. Afford's miss, off his own bowling, was almost as bad, and Metcalfe's, at point, was an absolute howler. Johnson, the captain, should have reached for the slipper at close of play and declared: "Single file."

Kim Barnett, who did the captain's job for 13 years until the club brought in Jones to

supply an outsider's view, had to administer one or two slippers in his time. Now the player who holds the Derbyshire record for most runs and hundreds is enjoying life among the ranks again and when he reached 22 he established another milestone, becoming the first man at the club to make 1,000 first-class runs in 13 seasons.

A better side would have bowled out Derbyshire for 200. Shortly after lunch they were in some trouble at 133 for five, before Jones found assistance from Krikken and then, more robustly, from Cork, who outlived him to survive the day.

Reprised by Afford, Jones hit the next ball but one high and straight for six, to repay him. After Metcalfe's generosity he took four off the next ball from an inside edge. It was not a flawless innings but, as he will no doubt tell you: look in the book.

Cairns chose not to applaud Jones from the field. He, for one, had seen rather too much of him and he was just as eager to send Cork back from whence he came. Cairns is one of the few players to rival Cork when it comes to the dramatic appeal and, with his long dark hair, he could pass for a pirate.

At the moment this ship is heading for the rocks.

Pollock plunders Glamorgan

WARWICKSHIRE are not yet ready to concede defeat in their quest for a third successive county championship. The match against Glamorgan, which began at Edgbaston yesterday, is their game in hand on Surrey, the leaders, and they still have to visit the Oval later in the month.

Shaun Pollock, the South Africa fast bowler, was not signed for his batting ability, but yesterday he compiled his second championship century of the season to ensure Warwickshire reached 412 for seven, an impressive recovery after an uncertain start.

Pollock was unbeaten on 104 at the close and shared in a new Warwickshire record seventh-wicket stand against Glamorgan of 180 with

Keith Piper. Pollock's first 50 was compiled cautiously but his second came from just 54 balls with the milestone being reached in the penultimate over with four fours off Steve Watkins.

Simon Renshaw took two wickets on his championship debut as a depleted Hampshire attack produced a spirited performance against Hampshire at Old Trafford. Renshaw, born on The Wirral, dismissed Test players Neil Fairbrother and Mike Walkinson in consecutive overs.

Graeme Hick's unhappy summer continued at Lord's when he was dismissed first ball by Ricky Fay. Worcestershire recovered, however, thanks to 124 from Tom Moody, the captain.

Stand-in Kirtley makes the most of opportunity

By SIMON WILDE

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four. South Africa A won toss): TCCB XI, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 221 runs behind South Africa A

ENGLISH cricket has often stood accused of stifling young talent, but yesterday one up-and-coming fast bowler, aged 21 and with four first-class matches behind him, was thrust into his first representative fixture and came out walking tall.

James Kirtley may stand "only" 6ft — no great height for a player of his type and seven inches shorter than "Ambie", or Curtly Ambrose, the great West Indian fast bowler after whom he is unsurprisingly nicknamed — but he bowled with enough life and accuracy against South Africa A to suggest he could make a career where many of his countrymen have failed in recent years.

Kirtley took three wickets for 48 in 15 overs and played a large part in the touring team collapsing from a lunch score of 150 for one to 302 all out. During the interval, sunshine gave way to heavy cloud cover, under which the ball swung and Kirtley immediately removed Liebenberg leg-before and Ackerman to a catch in the slips.

He later returned quickly to dismiss Klusener leg-before to a full-length ball to secure for himself career-best figures. The rub is, of course, that he was only playing here through the most Heath Robinson-ish means: he plays for Sussex, one of only five counties from whose players the TCCB XI was drawn, and he only appeared as a late replacement for the injured Simon Brown.

The other bowling plaudits were claimed by Salisbury who, in his last match before the Oval Test match, in which he may well play, took four wickets during an unchanged spell of 23.4 overs that was marked by a coolness under pressure.

Curiously, South Africa's most successful batsmen were not the vaunted players like Gibbs, who hoicked a catch to the square leg boundary, but bowlers-who-but like Boje and Pringle. Boje took the opportunity given him by opening by outstriking Liebenberg during a stand of 131 but, after reaching fifty, slugged at from start to finish in a 60-ball 52.

Cowan and Short generally bowled too short on a trust-worthy pitch that offered some help to the seamers. The TCCB XI reached 81 for the loss of Butcher by the close.

Another Akram emerges to threaten England

By PAT GIBSON

LEICESTER (second day of four): the Pakistanis, with seven second-innings in hand, are 243 runs ahead of Leicestershire

PAKISTAN are preparing to step up the pace for the final Test, which starts at the Oval next Thursday. Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis were always going to be a handful as it was, but now they look like being augmented by Mohammad Akram, who, according to Wasim, can bowl quicker than either of them.

It seemed to be an extravagant claim until yesterday, when the junior Akram (he will not be 22 until next month) confounded all the prognostications about the Grace Road pitch by taking seven for 51, the best figures of his career, with a high-class exhibition of genuine fast bowling.

Mohammad Akram, who had taken Leicestershire's first wicket the night before, picked up two more in his first spell yesterday and returned after lunch to claim their last four for eleven in 5.2 overs. Then, as if to emphasise Pakistan's strength in depth, Shahid Anwar, one of their reserve batsmen, led them to 221 for three with a fluent 86 not out.

It had been expected that the Pakistan spinners would do most of the work after their Leicestershire counterparts had taken seven wickets on the first day, but the tourists had clearly decided to give Akram the Younger his chance to challenge Ata-Ur-Rehman for the third seamer's place that the latter has held in the first two Tests. How well he responded.

His first four Tests — two against Sri Lanka at home, two in Australia — have brought him only nine wickets at 43 apiece, but he is big and strong, bowls a good line and here he looked decidedly quicker than either Mills, who still fancies his chances of playing for England, and Rehman.

He showed a deceptive change of pace, too, to deceive Smith into giving him a return catch, burst through Maddy's defence to have him leg-before and finally proved that he is just as adept at clearing up a tail as either Wasim or Waqar. Shahid then took his turn in the spotlight. He has scant chance of making the Test side, but he lost little in comparison with Aamir Sohail and Saeed Anwar in stands of 63 and 118. By the close he had been batting for three hours and hit two sixes and ten fours.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table with multiple columns listing cricket matches, teams, and scores. Includes sections for Kent v Somerset, Lancashire v Hampshire, Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, Yorkshire v Derbyshire, and Middlesex v Worcestershire.

Somerset unable to shackle Walker

By IVO TENNANT

CANTERBURY (first day of four. Kent won toss): Kent have scored 413 for four wickets against Somerset

FOR Kent, this was a capital day in the county championship, but only seven points behind the leaders, they made their runs yesterday attractively, inexorably, and even rapaciously. Matthew Walker, one of several young batsmen looking to succeed Mark Benson, who is injured, and Neil Taylor, who will be released at the end of the season, batted all day, making a career-best unbeaten 176. There were delightful innings, too, from Cape Hooper and Trevor Ward.

Walker last made a championship century two years ago. He has the cricketing attributes of many small men, which is not supposed to sound patronising. He pulls, cuts and rucks the ball off his legs, which makes him better suited to opening the batting than Fleming, who has reverted to the middle order.

Walker, it is true, was fortunate yesterday in that Caddick had a back injury and Somerset's attack, Lee included, did not look the part. Kerr had Fulton well taken at the wicket in his second over. Turner diving in front of first slip to hold the catch, but it was soon evident that a large total would be forthcoming.

Indeed, Ward, leading Kent in the continued absence of Marsh, did not concern himself with collecting singles. By lunch he had struck a half century off 44 balls, including no fewer than 12 fours. His driving is terrific when he is

Marsh is appointed captain next season, the vice-captaincy will go to him or Ealham, whose contract expires at the end of the year and whom Kent know will be offered more money elsewhere.

Then there is Hooper, who is more concerned with his batting than contemplating the captaincy at present. His innings of 76, which included eleven fours and two sixes, one driven into the pavilion off Trescothick, was as imperious as one would expect from a front-rank West Indian batsman against one of the weaker county attacks.

As with Ward, who was caught behind driving in his uninhibited way straight after lunch, Hooper was in need of a greater challenge. Unlike Walker, that was, who has a reputation to build and an opening place to make his own. That is the upshot of averaging 13.33 last year and having had only three championship matches this season.

This, though, is three more than Taylor, who, now that Benson has relinquished the captaincy, no longer has sufficient support for a first team place. He averages around 70 in the second XI and should receive an offer or two from other counties.

Much the same could be said of Long, who drove Batty to mid-on just as he was looking to take the attack to the bowlers. By contrast, in the last half hour, Walker was thinking in terms of a double century today. He has faced 311 balls thus far and hit 28 fours to give his county the opportunity of escaping from the cluster of counties at the head of the championship table.

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Russell Kempson predicts the finishing order in the Premiership this season

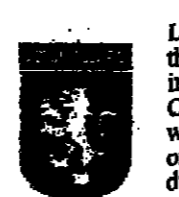
United retain look of champions



Alex Ferguson's initial summer shopping produced... Alex Ferguson's initial summer shopping produced...



Liverpool ran out of puff, or willpower, towards the end of last season... Liverpool ran out of puff, or willpower, towards the end of last season...



Little change at Villa Park during the summer recess... Little change at Villa Park during the summer recess...



Howard Wilkinson survived by the skin of his teeth last season... Howard Wilkinson survived by the skin of his teeth last season...



Newcastle's tear-stained title capitulation, from February onwards... Newcastle's tear-stained title capitulation, from February onwards...



Gary Mabbutt goes on and on, into his fifteenth season at the club... Gary Mabbutt goes on and on, into his fifteenth season at the club...



Southall's summer of discontent, no doubt brought on by the arrival of Gerrard... Southall's summer of discontent, no doubt brought on by the arrival of Gerrard...



Barely 14 months have elapsed since the last shock horror, probe at Highbury... Barely 14 months have elapsed since the last shock horror, probe at Highbury...



To be young, promising and English at Upton Park these days provides little hope... To be young, promising and English at Upton Park these days provides little hope...



Joe Kinnear trekked into deepest Russia during the summer, looking for the next Vinhal Jomeski... Joe Kinnear trekked into deepest Russia during the summer, looking for the next Vinhal Jomeski...



How much more idolatry can be heaped on Ruud Gullit?... How much more idolatry can be heaped on Ruud Gullit?...



Blackburn had their moment of glory 15 months ago, but are unlikely to reproduce... Blackburn had their moment of glory 15 months ago, but are unlikely to reproduce...



Coventry escaped the jaws of the Nationwide League on the final day of 1995-96... Coventry escaped the jaws of the Nationwide League on the final day of 1995-96...



Biggest news from the City Ground during the off-season was the decision of Lee... Biggest news from the City Ground during the off-season was the decision of Lee...



After Dave Merrington's bizarre dismissal had he not kept Saints alive... After Dave Merrington's bizarre dismissal had he not kept Saints alive...



Bryan Robson always had something about him as a player... Bryan Robson always had something about him as a player...



Nice to see Jim Smith, the 'Bald Eagle', soaring back to the big time... Nice to see Jim Smith, the 'Bald Eagle', soaring back to the big time...



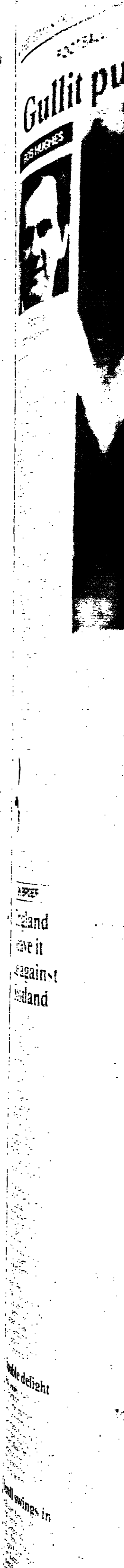
Welcome to the dark world beyond the trapdoor, where players sink in shame... Welcome to the dark world beyond the trapdoor, where players sink in shame...



Football followers in the North East will gorge themselves at the Premiership table this season... Football followers in the North East will gorge themselves at the Premiership table this season...



It still grates with the purists that clubs can earn membership of England's elite corps via the play-offs... It still grates with the purists that clubs can earn membership of England's elite corps via the play-offs...



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Cardiff romp away with Inner Cities Cup

SPORT

Britain take high hopes to Atlanta



FRIDAY AUGUST 16 1996

Czech cleared to boost Liverpool

BY PETER BALL AND RUSSELL KEMPSON PATRIK BERGER'S work permit came through yesterday, enabling the Czech Republic international to complete his £3 million transfer from Borussia Dortmund in time to play for the start of Liverpool's Cup Winners' Cup campaign. However, although the European deadline passed yesterday, Berger may not be the last of the foreign influx into the FA Carling Premiership. Manchester United's bid for Spain's outstanding central defender, Miguel Angel Nadal, has been put on ice after discussions with Barcelona broke down, but suggestions yesterday that Barcelona would release Nadal mean that it could be revived at United's board meeting today. "We did inquire about him, but the discussions haven't come to anything," Maurice Watkins,

United's solicitor and a club director, said yesterday. "We haven't been able to come to a satisfactory agreement, but we will be keeping it under review." There was better news for Ferguson yesterday regarding Andy Cole. The striker was expected to be out for at least six weeks, when he suffered pneumonia at the beginning of August, but he is back in training ahead of schedule. Nadal, 30, would not be available for the Champions' League stage of the European Cup, but with worries over Gary Pallister's suspect back, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, may decide to move for the tall defender, who had an outstanding game against Alan Shearer in June in the European championship quarter-final. Demands on players are going to become even greater next season. UEFA, the European governing body, decided yesterday to increase

the Champions' League stage from 16 to 24 clubs in the 1997-98 season, allowing the champions of all 48 member leagues into the competition. While the arrival of Berger's work permit was good news for Liverpool, who feared that it might not come in time to register him for the Cup Winners' Cup, it was even better news for Berger himself. "It's been my ambition to play for Liverpool since I can remember," Berger said through an interpreter. Berger, who has not been able to train with Liverpool pending the arrival of the permit, is not expected to start against Middlesbrough tomorrow. Arsene Wenger, Arsenal's manager-in-waiting, yesterday received a glowing reference from George Weah, the world footballer of the year. If the Highbury supporters were still questioning the wisdom of the club's beleaguered directors in appointing Wenger to replace Bruce

Riach, Weah sought to allay their fears. Weah, the Liberia and AC Milan striker, spent his formative years at AS Monaco, where Wenger was chief coach. "For me, he is the best," Weah said. "He made me into a good player, a better player, and he worked me hard. He made Monaco into a good team, too. He would work with each player each day, psychologically and physically, and there was a great understanding between us." Wenger is expected to be confirmed as Riach's successor on Tuesday, once he has gained agreement from his present club, Nagoya Grampus Eight. Even then,

though, Arsenal may have to wait. Nagoya could insist that Wenger stays until the end of the Japanese season in November, or until his contract expires the following month. "People here have been very good to me and I have to be fair to them," Wenger said. "I can't say too much, because nothing has been officially confirmed yet, but I know the English game very well. What the demands are, how great the passion is and how desperate everyone is for success. "Arsenal are right up there as one of the biggest clubs so it would be a huge challenge for me, probably the biggest of my career. English football has made great progress in the last two years and the mix of continental players always improves things." Wenger moved to Monaco in 1987, after coaching youth teams at Strasbourg and Nancy, and signed

Glenn Hoddle, now the England coach, and Mark Hateley, the former England striker. His prospective job at Highbury will prevent him from linking up again with Hoddle, who wanted him to become the Football Association's new technical director. "Glenn had talked to him," Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, said. "The long-term situation of technical director has now been put on the back-burner." Hoddle did recruit one ally yesterday, though. Ray Clemence, the former Liverpool and England goalkeeper, resigned as manager of Barnet to join the England coaching staff. Blackburn Rovers last night called off their signing of Robbie Elliott from Newcastle United. "Because of his medical background, we were not prepared to go to a tribunal about the fee," Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, said.

Sprinters to meet in golden contest

BY DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT DONOVAN BAILEY, who left the Olympic Games in Atlanta as the 100 metres champion but not recognised as the world's fastest man, has agreed to put the issue to the test. Ray Flynn, his manager, disclosed yesterday that he was in discussion with representatives of Michael Johnson for an unprecedented race between the two world record-holders. Bailey, from Canada, won the Olympic 100 metres in a world-record 9.84sec. Five days later, Johnson, from the United States, reduced the 200 metres world record to 19.32sec, a 10.12sec first 100 metres from blocks and around a bend followed by his second 100 metres in 9.20sec — an average of 9.66sec for each 100 metres. Ato Boldon, the bronze medal winner in both sprints, said that, while the 100 metres champion normally could claim to be the quickest human, Johnson was, in his opinion, faster than Bailey. Now negotiations are progressing for a challenge between the only two athletes to have set world records in the Atlanta Olympics and, should it go ahead, the match would be at least as lucrative as the £200,000 race between Linford Christie and Carl Lewis in Gateshead in 1993. Flynn said that the event would be linked to a casino and held in north America. Rather than use a regular athletics venue, a temporary two-lane track may be erected in a gambling centre such as Las Vegas. Bailey has no international record at 200 metres and Johnson, though he has dabbled at 100 metres, has never broken 10sec. Although a compromise distance of 150 metres may prove tempting, it would better to stick to 100 metres, not only because the title of world's fastest man is traditionally judged over that distance but also because, over 150 metres, Johnson would be an unbackable favourite.

Swede makes startling recovery Alfredsson puts on command performance

IT WAS calm and sunny for the first round of the Westbix Women's British Open at Woburn yesterday, but those in the vicinity of the 3rd green prepared for thunderbolts when Helen Alfredsson, a Swede for whom the word volatile might have been minted, strode off, already four over par. Alfredsson, winner of this title in 1990, opted for fireworks instead of eight birdies, one eagle and two bogeys later she signed for a remarkable rollercoaster round of 69, four under par, just a shot behind the leaders, a cosmopolitan bunch comprising Alison Nicholas, Jenny Liddack, Tracy Hanson, Emilie Klein, Julie Piers and Dale Reid. Alfredsson's dizzying description of the proceedings was as much of a tour de force as the golf itself. She is now based in Los Angeles and would be available for a cameo role, preferably manic. In the Blake Edwards mode. "The most erratic round I've ever played? My whole life is erratic," she said.

The dropped shot at the short 2nd was relatively straightforward — a nine-iron into the bunker on the left and a missed par putt of four feet — but the 3rd, a difficult par four of 355 yards that doglegs its way uphill — was a catalogue of mayhem that included nine shots but only seven counting strokes, and Alfredsson revelled in the retelling. "I hooked my three-wood off the tee and played a provisional ball, but we found the first ball in sticky bushes, so I went in there, but first, and chipped out. I had a four-iron to the green, but I topped it back in the trees and played another provisional. Then I did my Tarzan act in the jungle for a while, found the first ball and went back to play it from the original spot on the fairway. I figured I should be able to do it right the third

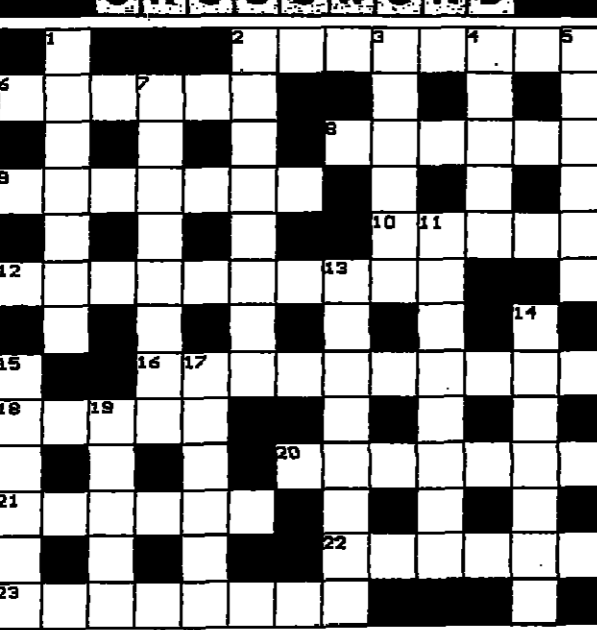
time and I hit it onto the green — I took a five-iron this time — and two-putted from about 24 feet. "After all the shots I hit, a seven sounded like a bargain because I was beginning to think I might not finish at all. I just thought it can't get much worse now." It did not. Three successive birdies followed the triple-bogey and she moved to one under par with an eagle three at the 466-yard 10th, where she hit a five-iron to 40 feet and canned the putt. She dropped a shot at the 11th, a par three where she missed the green, birdied the next two holes, bogeyed the 14th and birdied three of the last four holes. The exception was the 16th, where she got a four that was well-nigh regulation. "That was a fun par," she said. "I hit a three-iron behind a tree and had to bend a four-iron round the tree, onto the green, and two-putted."

Beth Daniel and Val Skinner, Alfredsson's American playing partners, were obviously so mesmerised that they lost the plot. Daniel, troubled with burstitis in her left shoulder, took 77 and Skinner bogeyed three holes in a row from the 14th in her 74. Alfredsson in this sort of form is unlikely to be omitted from the Solheim Cup team so, although in some discomfort, she will delay an important operation until after the match. Typically, there is nothing simple about it. It will last six hours and require four months of recuperation and involves a broken bone in her bottom and ligaments and hamstrings that have become detached but must be attached. Alongside Alfredsson on four under was Karrie Webb, the defending champion. Having relished a run in Laura Davies's Ferrari on Wednesday — the speed reached was classified information — the young Australian was a touch



Nicholas keeps her eye on the ball after driving during her impressive first round at Woburn yesterday

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



ACROSS 2 Food-strainer (8) 6 Arctic permafrost zone (6) 8 Reason: earth (6) 9 Dimly (7) 10 Servicemen unit (5) 12 Projecting rafter-support (10) 16 Shyly silent (6-4) 18 Flourer of authority (5) 20 Does not go out (5,2) 21 Die of hunger (6) 22 Inmate; local (6) 23 Pigment ground in egg liquid (3,5) DOWN 1 Fugitive (7) 2 Large pot for boiling (8) 3 'Jove's planet... silent over — (7 Brownings) (6) 4 Celtic priest (5) 5 Blast (6) 7 Explosive material (8) 11 Purpleish sapphire (8) 13 Gleeful (8) 14 Take over from (7) 15 Wall painting (6) 17 Malvolio her steward (7, Night) (6) 19 Violent disturbance (5) The solution to 861 will be published Wednesday, August 21

born in New York, was on the same mark. She dropped two shots in the last three holes, but is worth keeping an eye on, for, much in the Alfredsson mode, anything is liable to happen. At the Welsh Open at St Pierre last year, Fink had a run of eight birdies in ten holes and just made the cut. If she learns to keep her excitement in check and turn the bogeys into pars, she will be a formidable competitor. Lisa Hackney, a Midlander who seems certain to make her Solheim Cup debut this year, is not a demonstrative soul, but her golf continues to impress. She deviated from par only three times: at the 4th, where pitched in from 20 yards for an eagle three; at the 10th, where she holed a 25-foot putt for another eagle three; and at the 18th, where she holed a ten-footer for a double-bogey seven. It was not the time to live up to her nickname of Hackers, but it demonstrated the new difficulties of the closing hole, which is 52 yards longer than it was last year and needs a carry of 200 yards to make the fairway. It now stretches even Daviey, who had a par five in a round of 72 that contained 15 pars. Perhaps her fireworks are to come.

EARLY-FIRST-ROUND SCORES Table with columns for Country, Score, and Percentage

Paul crosses to join Bath all-stars

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT THEY have taken all summer to do so but Bath, English rugby union's double champions, announced a playing squad yesterday crammed to the gills with international experience and topped off with the exciting skills of Henry Paul, the Wigan rugby league utility back. What John Hall, Bath's director of rugby, described as the best club squad in the country will cost an annual wage bill of around £15 million and, in signing Paul on a short-term contract, Bath have joined those clubs who are, in effect, subsidising rugby league by taking over substantial elements of their existing contracts. The New Zealander, whose only rugby union experience, before the cross-code match at Twickenham last May was as a centre for Rutherford School

in Auckland, received offers from four rugby union clubs, including Harlequins. Paul, 22, recognises the possibilities of growth for union and the new money coming into the sport: "At some stage I'll have to decide which code to play, I can't play back-to-back seasons too much," he said, doubtless aware that Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League's chief executive, warned yesterday that cross-overs such as that by Paul, Va'atanga Tuigamala and Martin Offiah should be short-term, with league retaining primacy. Paul, who has played league in any position from scrum half to full back, is contracted to Bath from September 8 to January 11 when Wigan will reclaim him. New Zealand have a three-match Test series against Great Britain in October, for which he would love to be selected, but recent policy suggests that his country's



Paul: short-term deal

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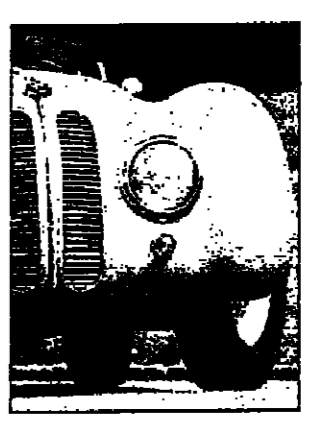
Has the car of the future already arrived?

Page 2



Legends of BMW take the California limelight

Page 5



SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

RK

Scooter sales have accelerated as commuters buy themselves valuable time and freedom, says Jennai Cox



Scooter converts Veronica Cefis (right) and Martine Rhoda with their new machines. Two wheels will save them both time and money, free them from public transport problems and add an element of personal security to commuting

Why commute when you can scoot?

In the desperate attempt to escape the trauma of traffic, overcrowded buses, late-running trains and strike-hit Tubes the British commuter has rediscovered the scooter. Travellers from Cumbria to Cornwall are buying the lightweight, runaround motorbikes so popular on the Continent.

Sales of powered two-wheelers have risen every week this year, led by a new breed of multi-coloured, slick and sexy looking scooters designed to attract the fashion-conscious and those who have never considered bike riding before.

Sales to women have risen 20 per cent, with many choosing step-through models which can be ridden easily in a skirt.

Retailers say interest jumped after Noel Gallagher of Oasis and Jonathan Ross were seen riding them.

But the days of mods and nostalgia for their Lambretta culture are past: the scooter buyer is now more likely to be a city worker than a teenager. According to Ian Waldock, a partner at London's Metropolis Motorcycles, "They are professionals and are making scooters more acceptable. It's not a cranky, old-fashioned form of transport anymore. People want to



Scooters are the ideal way to negotiate city rush-hour traffic

buy back the time they spend travelling."

Martine Rhoda, who was inspired to buy a silver Piaggio Sfera 50cc last week by a colleague, worked out that switching from the Tube and car will save her 11 days a year, and "a fortune". She says, "All my friends with scooters say it's a good way of de-stressing your life and saving money. I feel so liberated."

Martine who lives in Futham has to be at her desk in a City investment bank by 7.30 each morning. Using a scooter has cut her journey time from one hour to 25 minutes.

Alison Krug swapped her Travelcard for a yellow Piaggio Typhoon 80cc last January to get to work in North London. "Everyone is so friendly, they stop to chat at traffic lights after you've zoomed past the queueing cars. In the Tube everyone just sits and stares," she says.

Women like the anonymity of a crash helmet and being able to travel when they choose. Sarah Waghorn, promotions art director for *Elle* magazine, bought her black Piaggio Sfera 80cc a month ago to avoid having to hang around train stations. "I have to work late sometimes and the bike gives me more freedom," she

riders will want to be taken more seriously, says Dr Jeremy Vanke, head of public policy at the RAC.

Bristol became the first city last year to allow motorbikes to use bus lanes. Some retailers reported a subsequent 25 per cent increase in scooter sales. Despite bus drivers' concerns, there have been no accidents and its success has attracted inquiries from local authorities in Norwich and Norfolk, and Lothian in Scotland.

Like many newcomers to scooters, customers at Streetbike Motorcycles in Dudley, West Midlands, say apart from the economics, riding them is also fun. The director of Streetbike, Gary Marshall, says: "It's being seen as a way of bringing the enjoyment back into driving."

Richard Artus, director of property developers Urban Spaces in south-east London, bought a Piaggio Sfera 80cc three months ago and says the word scooter sums up the experience. "It's all about scooting round the city on a bike that feels like a toy. It's easy, light, clean; you can wear a suit on them and they are fun. I would never think of driving a big bike again."

SCOOTER FACTS

SALES of scooters in Britain are up almost 40 per cent on last year. So far 4,000 have been sold compared with 2,900 for the whole of 1995.

DURING their heyday in the late 1950s, up to 100,000 scooters a year were sold. Sales declined with the rise of the small car. Lambretta, the market leader, closed its factory here in 1972. Sales then picked up again during the 1980s.

THE FIRST 50cc scooter on the market was the front-wheel-drive Velo-Solex, manufactured in France in the late 1940s. The first sold in Britain was a Vespa in 1948.

THIS YEAR is the 50th anniversary of the Vespa. Italian for "wasp" it was designed by Enrico Piaggio who wanted to provide low-cost mobility for the masses after the Second World War.

PRICES start at around £1,100 and go up to just under £3,000 for a luxury model.

TOP-SELLING scooters include the Piaggio Typhoon 50cc, and 125cc and the Yamaha SR 125cc.

STIRLING Moss, Bono of U2 and Tom Conran all own scooters.

A SURE sign that times do not change: in 1965 it was reported that nearly three-quarters of Britain's one million scooter and moped owners used them to save time and lares when commuting.

THERE are an estimated 75,000 scooter riders in Britain today. About 1,000 enthusiasts regularly take part in rallies.

SCOOTERING magazine is to produce a special supplement with the October edition including road tests of the newest scooters on the market.

On two wheels, pages 3, 12

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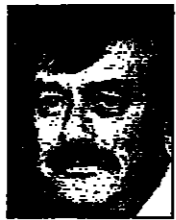
TRACKER
STOLEN VEHICLE RECOVERY SYSTEM
OPERATED BY THE POLICE AND ENDORSED BY THE AA

The Government's fight against Brussels over VAT on bridge-crossing could backfire because of its own policies

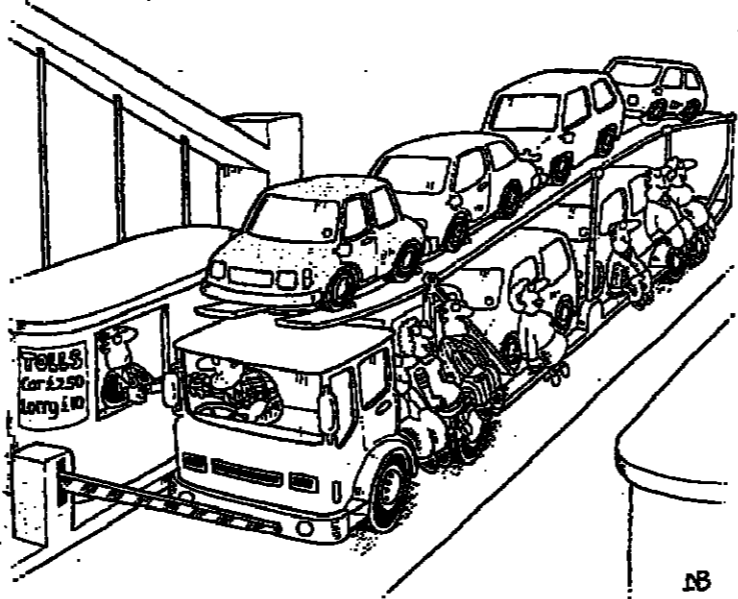
Rotten toll of privatisation

Lorry driver incandescent with rage is a sight worth seeing, provided his ire is not directed at you. The notion that only Italians and other Mediterranean types roll their eyes, wave their arms and generally behave as if close to meltdown is soon dispelled once you corner a couple of British truckers and start feeding in key words.

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard



The latest cause of distress is a proposal from Brussels that we should charge VAT on bridge tolls. Brussels loves VAT, which as you know is a tax collected free of charge by businesses and other ordinary mortals (including me) on behalf of the government.

ment is right to take it there. One of the crossings involved is that over the River Severn into Wales, which now consists of two bridges.

regard this as a levy too far and they are right. Already, many HGV drivers coming from the Midlands and the North are under instructions to avoid the bridge by cutting through north Gloucestershire.

ing the Severn crossings involves huge lorries thundering along totally unsuitable roads, many of which are hardly fit to carry cars.

Vaughan Freeman on the pick of past and planned designs shown by a new study

Cars we want, we won't get

THE FUTURE

Carless city centres, a clampdown to get petrol-driven cars off the road, and an age of smaller, "greener" high-tech cars driven by older motorists, is the tomorrow's world vision of motoring drawn up in a new report published this week.

Within 20 years electric and gas-powered vehicles will be common, particularly among public-service fleets such as buses, it forecasts. Many city centres will ban cars completely, and in other areas only fume-free cars, such as those that are battery-powered, will be allowed anywhere near town boundaries.

Cars, such as the 10ft-long Mini-sized Ford Ka, launched later this year, and the Vauxhall Maxx concept-car, will get ever smaller.

Despite their minuscule proportions however, such cars will be vital in a world in which up to 30 million cars, as opposed to today's 20million, will be sharing our roads — and they will have all the comfort and equipment once only associated with larger limousines.

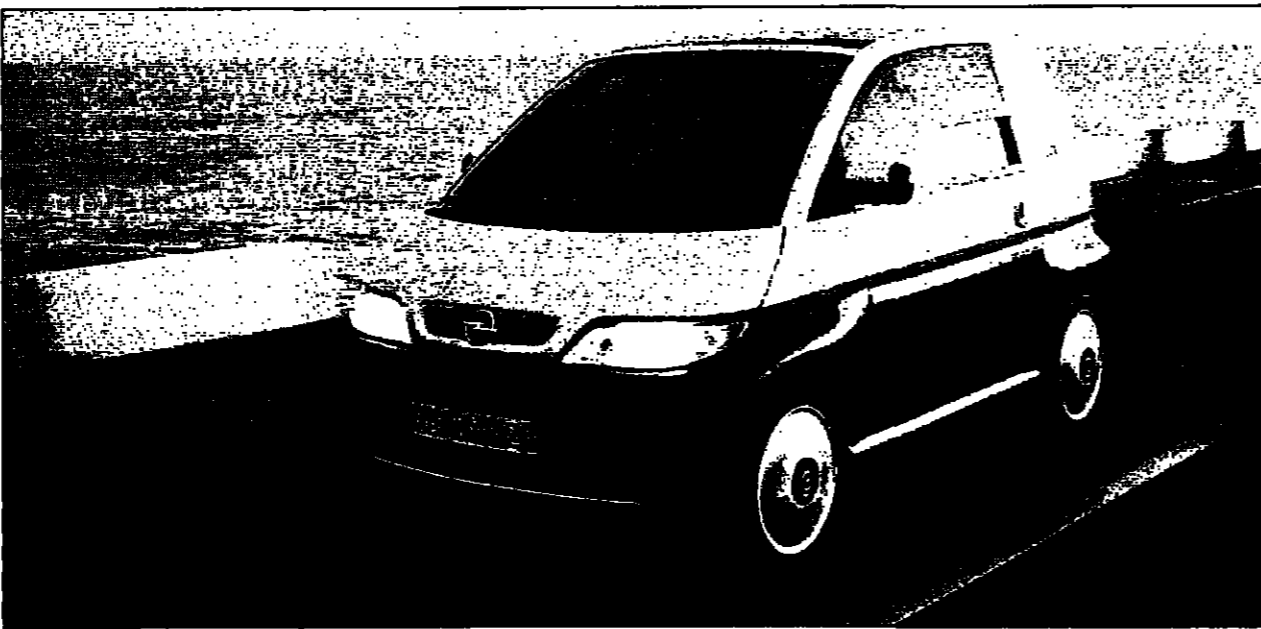
They will routinely feature advanced technology in their cabins, including radar-controlled collision avoidance systems and infra-red sensors to make motoring at night and in fog much safer.

The report, by Warranty Holdings Group, the UK's largest supplier of used-vehicle breakdown warranty programmes for leading car manufacturers, sought the opinions of leading figures in the motor industry worldwide.

Warranty Holdings Group managing director Peter Head says: "Around 2015 will be a turning point in the history of the car. We will be on the verge of a new age of motoring, in which electric and other alternatively powered vehicles are beginning to make an impact.



Mini and micro-sized vehicles such as the 10ft-long Ford Ka, launched later this year, will herald the revolution



Vauxhall is also pursuing the trend with its Maxx concept car, but far more radical vehicles are expected to emerge

crease. The field of car design, traditionally a male preserve, will see a growth in the number of female designers, resulting in subtle but significant influences which will contribute towards a friendlier, more practical and less macho image for the car."

Professor Gareth Rhys of the Cardiff Business School, says in the report: "Engine fuel injection systems will be far more frugal than anything that exists at the moment. It will be like putting a pipette of petrol into the cylinders, rather than just throwing it in by the bucket-load, which is almost what we do at the moment when you compare it with what could be possible."

While petrol cars become more efficient and less polluting, electric cars will evolve for use in areas where traffic is more dense, says Ken Greenley, head of transportation design at London's Royal College of Art: "At 70mph on the highway, the average petrol car is pretty efficient. Where it is useless is when it is stuck in a traffic jam or ticking over at traffic lights.

DREAM ON

E-type top of great cars poll

ACTRESSES and bishops have, it seems, more in common than dubious music-hall jokes and saucy seaside postcards. Both love cars, and often it is the same ones that excite their interest.

Actress Fiona Fullerton and his Grace the Bishop of Sodor and Man, Noel DeBroy Jones, might move in different circles, but they share a keen interest in cars. Both are enamoured of that icon of luxury motoring, the Rolls-Royce, as the car they would most like to own.

They both agree that the epitome of automotive beauty is embodied in the classically English lines of a Jaguar. For now the Bishop makes do with a Peugeot, while Fiona Fullerton has a daret-red Jaguar XJ6.

Roads minister John Watts (usually in a black Jaguar XJS), actress Jenny Seagrove (a Mercedes-Benz 190E), and Barban Centre director John Tusa share the dream of a sensational Mercedes-Benz Gull-Wing SL.

Junior Transport Minister John Bowis drives a humble Vauxhall Cavalier, but his dream car is the new Aston Martin DB7, and the Lamborghini Countach from Italy the design he most admires. The Italian connec-



Fiona Fullerton and the Bishop of Sodor and Man

tion is strong for his predecessor, Steven Norris, usually seen at the wheel of a Jaguar, but who most admires the Ferrari. Performance is also a key factor in the choice of his favourite car of all time, the Bentley Turbo R.

THE WARRANTY Holdings Group survey found that Formula One driver David Coulthard's unlikely first vehicle was a Mercedes 508 diesel van, while the Bishop of Rochester first took to the road at the wheel of an MG Midget sports car, although he now has a car more usually associated with men of the cloth — a Rover saloon.

Designers Sir Terence Conran, whose own cars include a black Porsche 911, and a yellow Renault Twingo, first drove a Ford Thames van. Sir Terence cannot decide whether he would most like to own a VW Beetle or the Porsche 911, "two cars at opposite ends of the price spectrum, but united by the same designer".

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

London M1 junction 2 (A1, Hendon) slip road flyovers connecting the M1 and the A1 closed for long-term emergency repairs.

South East M4 junctions 12-14; overnight lane closures both ways, down to a single lane at times.

West Midlands M5 junctions 17-20; contraflow between Bristol West and Clevedon with a 50mph speed limit over the Avonmouth Bridge.

Midlands and East Anglia A632 Near Chesterfield; roadworks on Langwith Road at Bolsover Lane.

Northern Ireland A2 Carrickfergus; restrictions on Larne Road at the junction with Rawlford Road.

A1213 Oldbury; off-peak lane closures during the day at Birchfield Island and on Pound Road.

North M6 junctions 20-21A; three narrow lanes in both directions near the Thelwall Viaduct, with some slip roads reduced to a single lane.

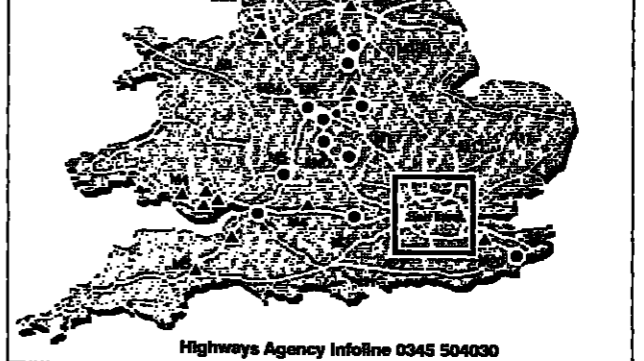
Wales A470 Llyswen; temporary lights at Llanged Hall.

Scotland A90 Aberdeen; restrictions on the roundabout either side of the Bridge of Dee.

England A90 Kingsway; contraflow between Myre Kirk Road and Couper Angus Road.

Midlands and East Anglia A632 Near Chesterfield; roadworks on Langwith Road at Bolsover Lane.

Northern Ireland A2 Carrickfergus; restrictions on Larne Road at the junction with Rawlford Road.



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

NEWS IN BRIEF

Endurance fun

If you fancy driving across Europe through Syria, Jordan, Israel, Egypt and on to Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa then now is the time to sign up for the London-Cairo-Cape Town Reliability Trial and Adventure Drive. The event, to be held in June and July 1998, promises to be one of the greatest motoring adventures yet. It is being organised by John Brown, the man behind LE100, the Land's End to John O'Groats classic car trial, and Fred Gallagher, three times winner of the challenging East African Safari. The journey is expected to take 32 days. Details from: 01886 833505.

Big Suzi

Suzuki's largest passenger car yet, the Baleno saloon, has been given a facelift and a new 1.8-litre aluminium engine. Standard specification includes anti-lock brakes, side impact protection, central locking, twin airbags, electric windows and mirrors and power steering. Its on-the-road price is £12,020.

Green meanie

Greenpeace last week challenged the motor industry to pay more attention to the environment by unveiling its own version of Renault's Twingo, one of the continent's most popular small cars. In the Twingo SmILE (Small Intelligent Light Efficient), a supercharged two-cylinder engine of just 360cc replaces the Renault 1.24-litre unit and is claimed to deliver 75-88mpg against the 42mpg average of the production car. Corin Millais, of Greenpeace UK, said of the specially commissioned car: "If Greenpeace has been able to develop this technology, why can't the car industry, with all its expertise and experience?"

Minor fortune

Mike Fletcher, who owns a 1949 convertible which he calls "the best Morris Minor in the world", paid £25,975 for five drawings of the car by its designer Sir Alec Issigonis on Thursday. They were among 11 designs for the Minor and the Mini sold at Christie's for a total of £33,925.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY IS THE WORLD'S FASTEST CIRCUIT. ALTHOUGH REGULATIONS RESTRICT AVERAGE SPEEDS TO ONLY 235 M.P.H., UNTIL 1950 EXOTIC CARS WERE FORBIDDEN TO DRIVE AT MORE THAN 30 M.P.H.

THE DELAUNE-BEUVILLE LIMOUSINE BUILT FOR TSAR NICHOLAS II IN 1910 HAD NO FEWER THAN EIGHT FOOT PEDALS.

UNTIL 1950 EXOTIC CARS WERE FORBIDDEN TO DRIVE AT MORE THAN 30 M.P.H.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF GENERAL MOTORS' NEW HQ IN DETROIT WAS PAID FOR BY REAR WHEEL DRIVE HENRY FORD II.

Handwritten signature/initials

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Visible text includes "Girl on motorbike", "fires u", and "Novices go".

New biker Linda Galloway beats the boys at their own game on the best of today's mid-range machines

Girl on a motorbike fires up



The Bandit, top, was hard to part with. The Ducati even harder

I always envied the boys next door. They had motorbikes, Suzuki 50s, and whenever my mother was out I used to climb over the wall and beg them to let me ride. But if I got caught I was in for at least a few days' grounding. Now that the threat of parental censure has receded, I have won my two-wheeled freedom, leathers and all.

Fed up with parking fines and garage fees, high road tax, maintenance charges and, most of all, traffic congestion and frayed city tempers, more and more commuters are taking to motorbikes. It is a brave move, away from the protection and comforts of modern cars.

Choosing to be a biker also means no lifts home for friends and no big impulse purchases. You learn to travel light and to wear leather with attitude; it really is the best bet for protection, and for women it has another advantage: in helmet and leathers you are anonymous.

That said, being a "girl on a bike" can single you out for attention, but in my experience this has been good-humoured envy from men in cars, especially if you're on something powerful. On the whole, the relationship between motorist and biker is not healthy, and irritation has a lot to do with it judging by the murderous looks I've received when ripping through gridlocked intersections.

I enrolled at a rider-training centre to learn as much as I could about safe, defensive riding — the fact that a doctor friend calls

motorcyclists "organ donors" influenced my choice. I received my Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) certificate after eight hours of tuition in the middle of a -4C freeze — a rude re-introduction to both the hazards and the drawbacks of biking. I then did a Road-Rider course — 12 hours of on and off-road tuition on a hired 125cc bike, with unlimited refresher lessons.

I spread my lessons over several weeks and met many would-be bikers. Some had provisional licences about to expire, others had always meant to but never got round to it, a few were enjoying lessons and one wanted to work as a motorcycle courier.

My first purchase was a pair of insulated riding gloves at £30. A helmet was next: the answer to the question "how much should I spend?" is invariably "how much do you value your head?" Prices range from about £35 for a cheap open-face nut-cracker; there is no upper limit for full-face optimum protection, but £300 is at the expensive end for normal road use.

Money spent on protective clothing which could save your life is well spent. Wearing leathers reinforced with body armour may sound excessive, but padded elbows, shins and kidneys are more likely to emerge bruised than battered after a high-speed tumble.

In choosing the machine, cost and colour are not the only factors; looks must be weighed up against attractiveness to thieves, particularly in cities. Female riders — and tiny men — are confronted with height



The Virago: fine name for woman's publisher, but not a woman's bike: the ergonomics are poor and the chopper styling lacks street-cred

and weight handicaps that can rule out even some under-250cc bikes.

Yamaha's Virago 535 is a pseudo-chopper remake with Harley lookalike chrome styling. The *Born to be Wild* look impresses non-bikers but has little street-cred. It's born to be mild, really: the middle sister in a family of 250 and 1100cc models, sometimes dismissively referred to as a "girl's bike". I felt at a distinct weight-disadvantage, with the wind beating against my chest and threatening to blow me right off while circling the M25. I felt ambivalent about this motorcycle: I enjoyed the ride but the look was not for me.

The Suzuki GSF N600 Bandit, but on the motorway it danced on tip-toe, light as a feather and super-responsive. The Ninja was also my introduction to Britain's busy motorcycle-theft industry. After three days' custodianship, someone tried to hot-wire it outside my home — which says more about it than I ever could.

The Honda CBR600F is similarly prone to disappearing. Lesson learnt, I parked it out of harm's way. I found it quiet and well-behaved but quite claustrophobic in the city, with most of the power stacked at the top end; a long and winding country road is required to unleash it. And then it lives up to its

high-performance looks and goes and goes and goes.

I saved the best (but not the most expensive) for last: the Ducati 600 Monster's design, styling and performance are irresistible. It's the perfect bike, compact, clean looks, evenly distributed weight and power, no excess paint or panelling and the coolest twin-exhaust behind you've ever seen. We bonded instantly on an early-morning jaunt from Northampton and it had to be priced out of my hands after a week-long love affair.

I've made the switch from four to two wheels, painlessly so far, although the lingo still escapes me. But please don't tell my mother.

Easy rider, racer or retro: how they rate

VIRAGO 535

Manufacturer: Yamaha
Displacement: 535cc
Transmission: 5-speed shaft-drive
Dry weight: 182kg
Fuel tank capacity: 13.5 litres
Fuel economy: 50 miles per gallon
Price: £4,499
Pose rating: poor man's Harley-Davidson. 5/10

N600 BANDIT

Manufacturer: Suzuki
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed constant mesh
Dry weight: 196kg
Fuel tank capacity: 19 litres
Fuel economy: 45 miles per gallon
Price: £4,399
Pose rating: retro styling attracts attention. 7/10

NINJA ZX-6R

Manufacturer: Kawasaki
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed x-ring chain
Dry weight: 182kg
Fuel tank capacity: 18 litres
Fuel economy: 50 miles per gallon
Price: £7,195
Pose rating: boy-racer's go-faster paintwork. 4/10

CBR600F

Manufacturer: Honda
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed
Dry weight: 185kg
Fuel tank capacity: 17 litres
Fuel economy: 40-45 miles per gallon
Price: £6,995
Pose rating: A racy ride. Impresses Barry Sheene wannabes. 7/10

600 MONSTER

Manufacturer: Ducati
Displacement: 583cc
Transmission: 5-speed
Dry weight: 175kg
Fuel tank capacity: 16.5 litres
Fuel economy: 40-45 miles per gallon
Price: £5,000
Pose rating: She's a babe. Loved by cognoscenti and bystanders alike. 10/10

Novices get the feeling of free-wheeling

Kevin Eason and colleagues learn how little wheels beat the traffic

You know that bloke on a scooter you made a rude gesture at the other day: the little guy with the black helmet? He came through on your inside at the lights and screamed off into the distance? Well, I confess that was me.

I discovered the joys of the scooter in cities so clogged with cars that the traffic looks as though it is permanently parked down the length of the road instead of commuting.

It took a couple of days to get used to the feeling, but once I was attuned to putting my feet up and — as Beryl Reid so aptly put it in *The Killing of Sister George* — feeling 125cc throbbing between my legs, there was nothing to beat my Piaggio Sfera for getting in and out of work.

I weaved in and out of the traffic at the lights, I could sprint away from everything but the odd Ferrari and in five days of travelling, I spent just over a fiver on petrol.

But before you consider joining the rush to two wheels in a haze of nostalgia for the Lambretta, remember some important facts. You fall off scooters, so you learn to fix car drivers at junctions with a

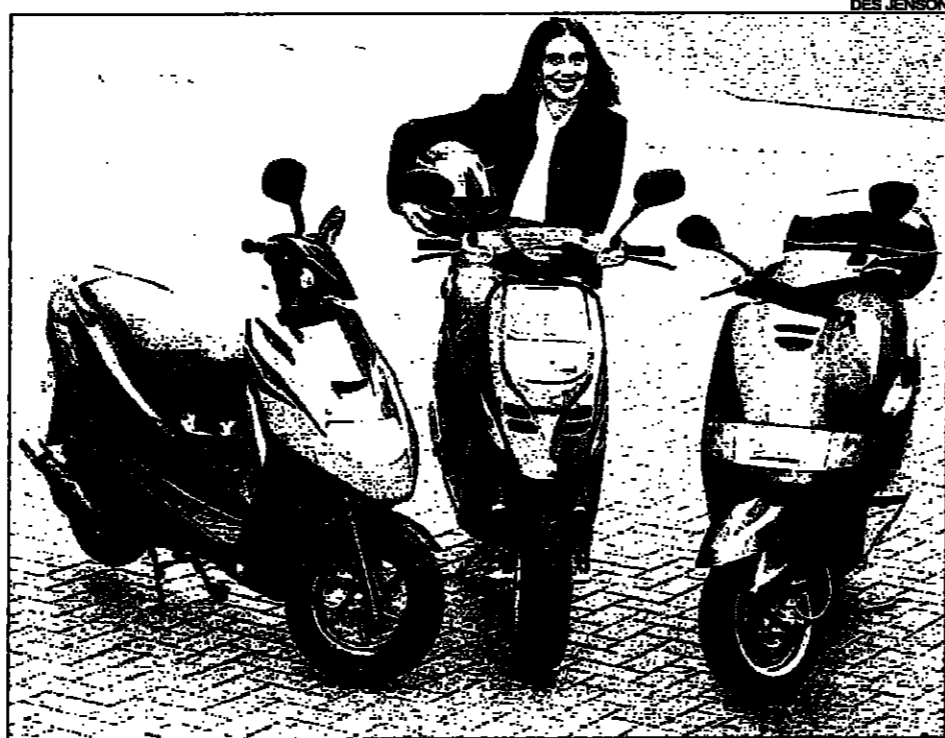
steely gaze as if hypnotising them into staying where they are. Wear the appropriate gear — leather trousers, are not only fetching, they avoid skinned knees and keep thighs from feeling as though they have been deep frozen.

Practise riding, particularly starting and stopping, which are the crisis moments in every scooterist's life.

And, as a fashion note, take some curling tongs to work because those helmets just take all the life and shape out of your hair.

To test the new wave of scooters, *Car 96* recruited two novices: Jennai Cox, a commuter from South London, took our Suzuki AP50, while Lindsay Maggs, intrepid photographer and resident of Southend, Essex, tried a Piaggio Typhoon 50cc.

NEVER having ridden a motorbike before, I took my compulsory basic training on the Suzuki AP50, which is an automatic, writes Jennai Cox. Not having to concentrate on gear changes or worry about stalling meant I got the hang of driving confidently within half an hour. Whizzing round the car park of the training



Novice Jennai Cox with, from left, the Suzuki AP50 and the 50cc and 125cc Piaggios

centre I felt like a fly, the scooter is so easy to manoeuvre.

The first encounter with traffic was a little scary. Without the security of a wind-screen or doors I felt very vulnerable and was much more aware of what was happening on the road.

But by the time I had to drive home I was happy doing 35mph (the maximum speed is about 40mph), and everything riders say about scooters being fun is true. I can't wait to get one of my own.

MY NOVICE status must have shone out as I rode the

Piaggio scooter for the first time, writes Lindsay Maggs. A police car followed me for five miles through London's Friday-night rush hour, and the driver was surprised when I told him I was riding to Southend. He asked why I was not wearing gloves.

Two hours later I arrived

home, cold but happy that I had sat out the journey at a top speed of 40mph, using only half a tank of petrol.

There is very little that can go wrong. The headlights turn on and off automatically, and to start the bike the front brake must be held in when the electronic starter button is pressed.

It's so simple, but the riding position on the Piaggio 50cc is very upright — hardly ideal for long distances, as the wind hits with direct force. Under the seat there is space for a crash helmet or a bag but not both.

Steering the machine is fine, apart from on really sharp corners: this demands practice because the wheels are so small that the bike initially feels unsteady. Pushing the bike on the centre stand also requires a certain technique. Pushing the stand firmly down into the ground makes the bike gently lift itself up.

My return to London took only one and a half hours and cost £1.59 for petrol. At some points the lack of acceleration made the bike vulnerable, particularly when traffic merged from the right slip road into the centre lane. For town driving it would be hard to match, but for longer distances I would choose something more powerful.

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96L Mercedes 190E 2.0 4dr Auto, Elec.S/Roof, P.A.S., Alloys, Radio/Cass., Dark Fect, 69K	£12,375
94M BMW 318i 4dr Man, Black, P.A.S., Air Bag, 54K	£11,925
94M Omega 2.0 16 Valve CD Man, Blue, Elec.S/Roof, P.A.S., Alloys, Twin Air Bags, 30K	£11,425
92K BMW 520i Man, Black, Elec.S/Roof, Alloys, Full Ltr, Multipack CD, 54K	£10,395
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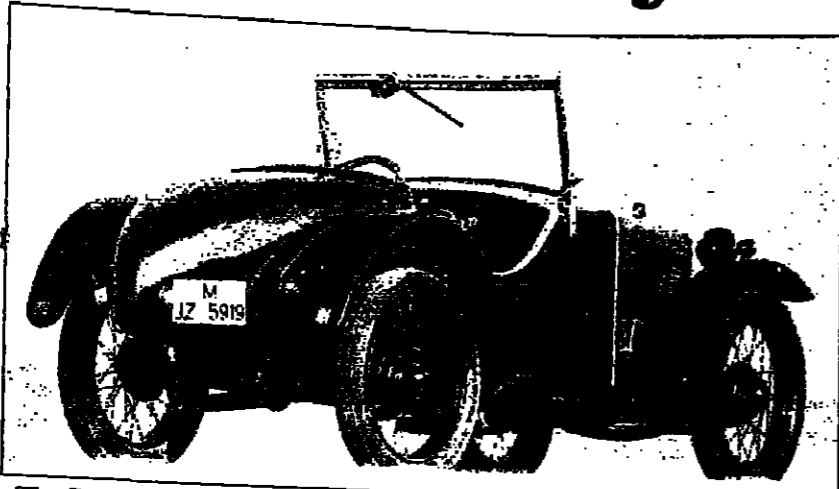
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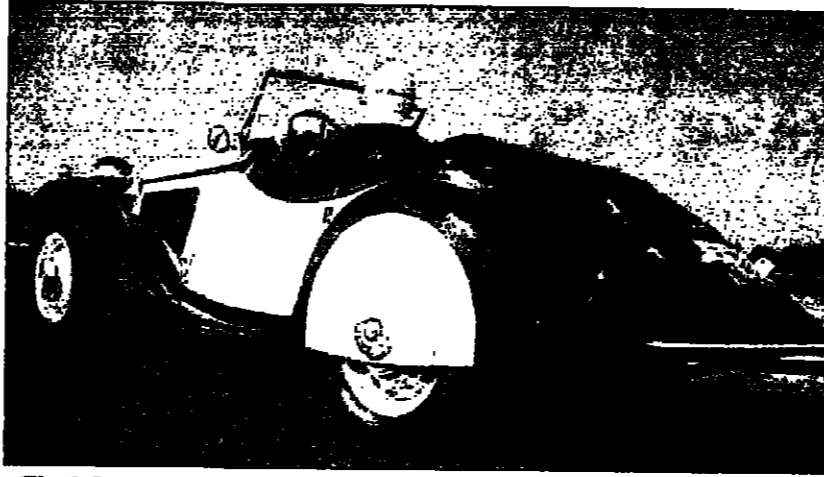
and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary

BMW stars in the leading US concours event in the year it starts making cars there, reports Eric Dymock

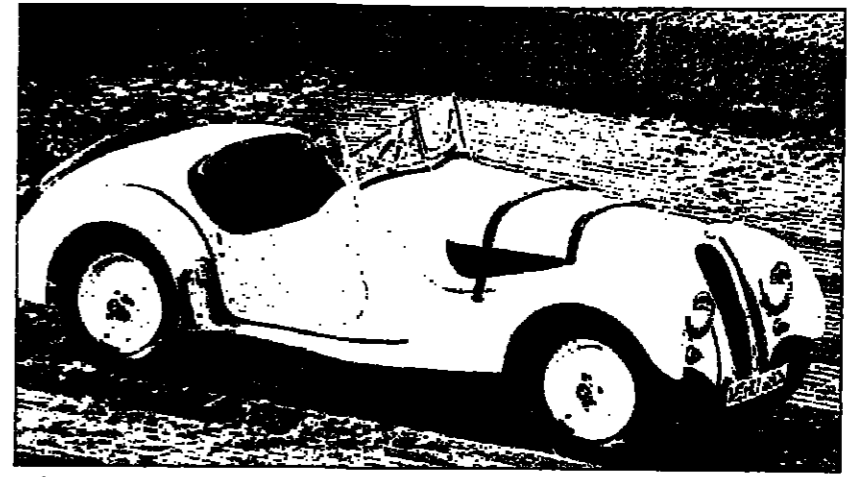
Germany invades America's glitterati



The first BMWs were based on Austin Sevens, but increasingly modified



The 315 rewrote sporting car design, with its soft springs and stiff chassis



The 328, one of the best 1930s sports cars, inspired Frazer-Nash to import it

Brooklands' old spirit survives among the warm palm beaches and coconut groves of California.

"The Right Crowd and No Crowding", the Brooklands racetrack slogan from its opening in 1906 until its last shequered flag in 1939, has translated easily to America's Laguna Seca Raceway, which clings to the pine-fringed semi-desert off Highway 101, south of San Jose.

This is the home of Pebble Beach's Concours d'Elegance, the most glamorous annual display of historic cars in the United States and arguably in the world. Appropriately, in the year that BMW has started manufacturing cars in the United States, the German company is the Concours's featured marque.

Instead of the clipped vowels of aristocrats like Earl Howe, Prince Bira or Count Zborowski, who frequented the Brooklands paddock, this weekend will hear the drawl of rich, corporate America. Families like the Fords and the Firestones, who created America's motor industry, will talk stars with stars such as arch-enthusiast Paul Newman, who has his own racing team.

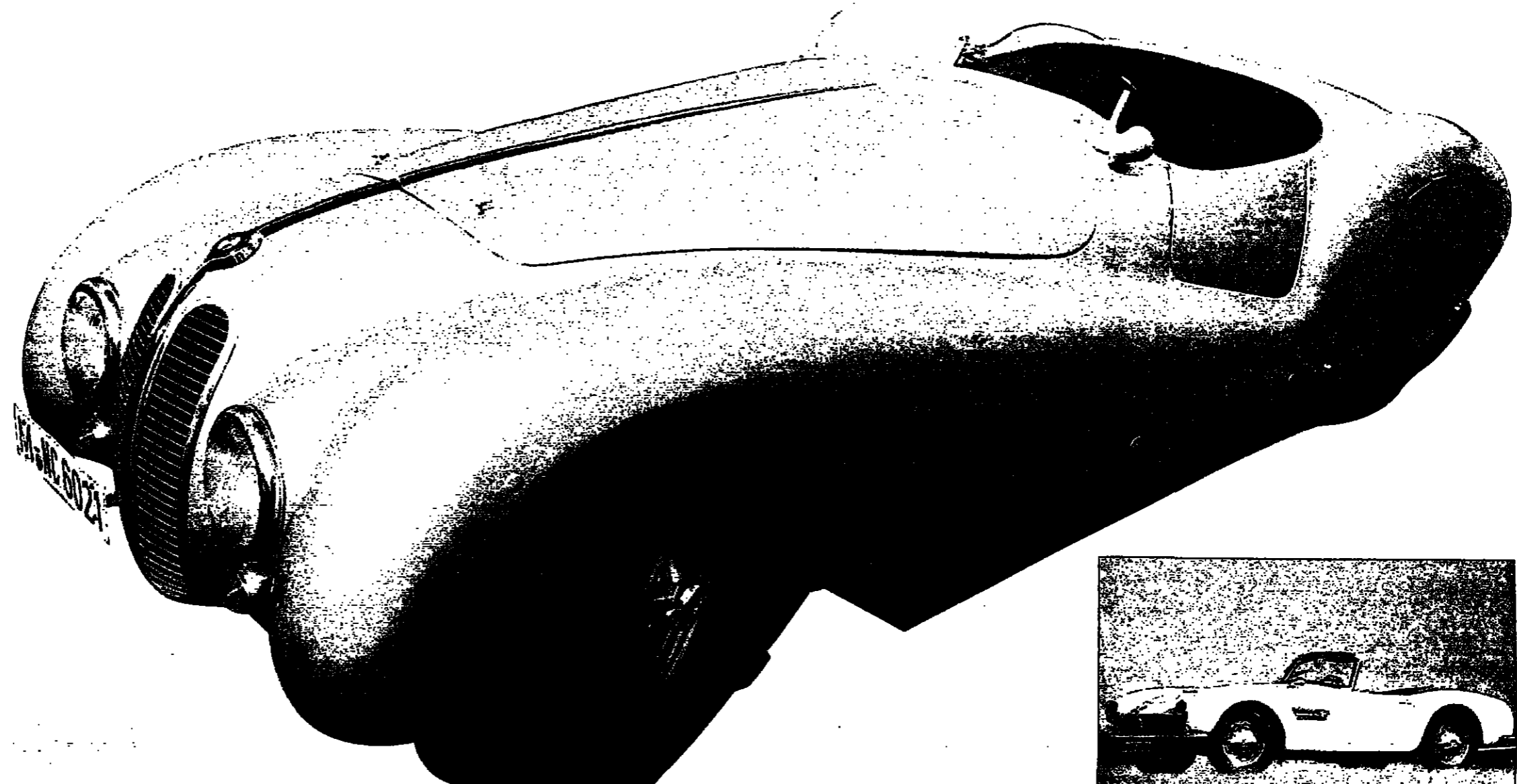
The Monterey Peninsula was the cradle of American sportscar racing, with machines roaring down the streets of elegant Pebble Beach in the 1940s. Now it is once again given over to cars: the annual parade on the 16th hole of Pebble Beach golf course is made up of cars in better condition than they were when they left the factory anything up to 90 years ago.

Americans tend to over-restore, adding chrome where there was none, burnishing anything burnishable, and polishing off the patina of age. The effect is often stunning but curiously sterile.

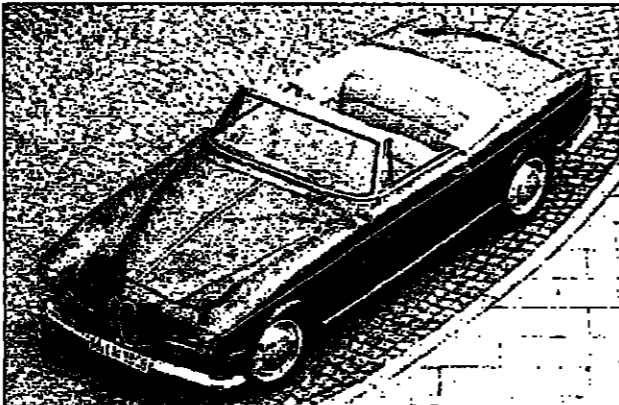
The standing quip among the veterans who turn up to watch is that the cars have lasted better than they have. Either way, both veteran and vintage will be elegantly arrayed between the exclusive Pebble Beach Lodge and a deep blue creek on the edge of the Pacific. As the sun burns off the mist that rolls in from the ocean and the tailored carvers come off, the varnished wood and shining metal shimmer in the blinding light.

Amid all the splendours on display, one of the treasures brought over especially from BMW's Munich museum looks surprisingly modest, and bears more than a passing resemblance to a 1922 Austin Seven. BMW's fortunes were founded on a car conceived in secret in the billiard room of Herbert Austin's home at Lickey Grange, Bromsgrove, Birmingham.

BMW began making aeroplanes in 1911, but under the Treaty of Versailles it had to



Jaguar's XK120 drew heavily on the 1940 Mille Miglia



BMW returned to roadsters with models like the 503



The roadster evolved into the Z3 used in Goldeneye

concentrate on motorcycles until 1928, when it bought the Dixi car factory in Eisenach.

Dixi made Austin Sevens under licence, starting with a batch of 50 cars built from British components. It agreed to make 2,000 a year, cheated and made 9,000, but it was still not enough to pay off the overdraft: BMW then took over. There were open two-seaters, four-seat touring cars, a two-door saloon, convertibles, and a delivery van. The 1930 BMW 3/15 Wartburg on show at Laguna Seca is a sporty version with an extra

three horsepower. This model gave BMW its first racing victory at the Nurburgring with German MG enthusiast Bobby Kohlerausch.

BMW decided the little baby Austin was crude. It got the firm into cars, but component by component it was redesigned, with a smooth-running roller-bearing crankshaft and overhead valves for more power.

By 1932 the car was more BMW than Austin: the licensing agreement was ended, the

chassis strengthened, and a new engine introduced.

In the 1934 Alpine Trial, the BMW 315 rewrote the specification of the sporting car which until then had stiff springs and a flexible chassis. BMW introduced soft springs and a stiff chassis, transforming the handling and roadholding. It evolved into the 328, one of the finest sports cars of the 1930s. Frazer-Nash, which manufactured the archetypal British sports car, saw the writing on the wall and started importing them.

BMW's astonishing engine

was developed by Bristol and provided Mike Hawthorn with the power to make his mark in the 1950s.

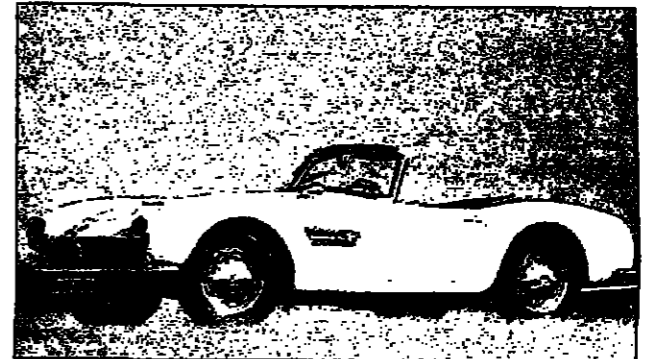
The 328 reached its apotheosis in 1939 and 1940, and the museum's roadsters at Laguna Seca include the trend-setting 1940 Mille Miglia car which inspired Sir William Lyons when he drew up the XK120 Jaguar of 1948. Spirited out of Germany in 1945, the Mille Miglia BMW was relaunched as a Frazer-Nash, and raced in Britain by Gilbert Tyrer, a Liverpool garage owner, in the 1950s. It was

restored as a BMW by Michael Bowler, founding editor of *Classic Car* magazine and returned to the BMW museum in the 1960s.

It has been back in Britain twice. It took part in the Ecurie Ecosse tour of Scotland in 1993 and reappeared for this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed. It is reunited with the newly-restored aluminium roadster BMWs commissioned by the NSKK, the National Socialist Motor Vehicle Corps. The bodies were built by the Italian Touring coachbuilder in 1940 and never raced again.

BMW returned to the roadster business in 1955 with the 507. It was a technical and artistic success but scarcely a commercial one. Only 252 were ever made. The 1986 Z1 was a technical masterpiece with a hot-dip galvanised frame and a plastic body, and although 8,000 were produced between 1988 and 1991 it too never achieved the success it deserved.

BMW is hoping for better things with the Z3, the roadster that starred in the last James Bond epic. Built in BMW's American factory at Spartanburg, the 1.9-litre two-seater takes some styling fea-



BMW's 507 was a technical but not commercial success

tures from the 507 and will go on sale in Britain in competition with the MGF.

If concours fails to stir the blood, the racing at Laguna Seca just might. Historic racing is no less hectic because the cars are old, and no quarter is given just because

an old car is irreparable. Racing cars were crashed and overhauled constantly when they were new, so the original fabric is less important than a continuous history. A new chassis, new engine, and a new body does not change a car's identity.

The Pebble Beach concours is not just a show, reports Alan Copps. Its auctions are a celebrity chaser's dream

Cars of the stars for sale

Pebble Beach's Concours d'Elegance is glitzy, but the business part of the weekend is auctions. The cars for sale are every bit as rare, beautiful and well-connected as the examples simply for show.

There are two auctions: one by the local company, Rick Cole, is selling Elvis Presley's BMW; the other, Christie's major American auction of the year has a host of intriguing entries including the car that Gregory Peck fell in love with in 1962, a Bentley S2 Continental Flying Spur. Used only for "special outings and occasions" it has accumulated 84,000 miles during his 34 years of ownership.

History is all with such cars and the amounts spent on service and maintenance are carefully detailed in the car's documents. The notes give an amusing hint that even the very rich and very famous have to put up with irritating motoring niggles, reporting: "The car's oil pressure is reading low but has recently been checked by a Rolls-Royce and Bentley specialist who confirms the gauge is not reading correctly."

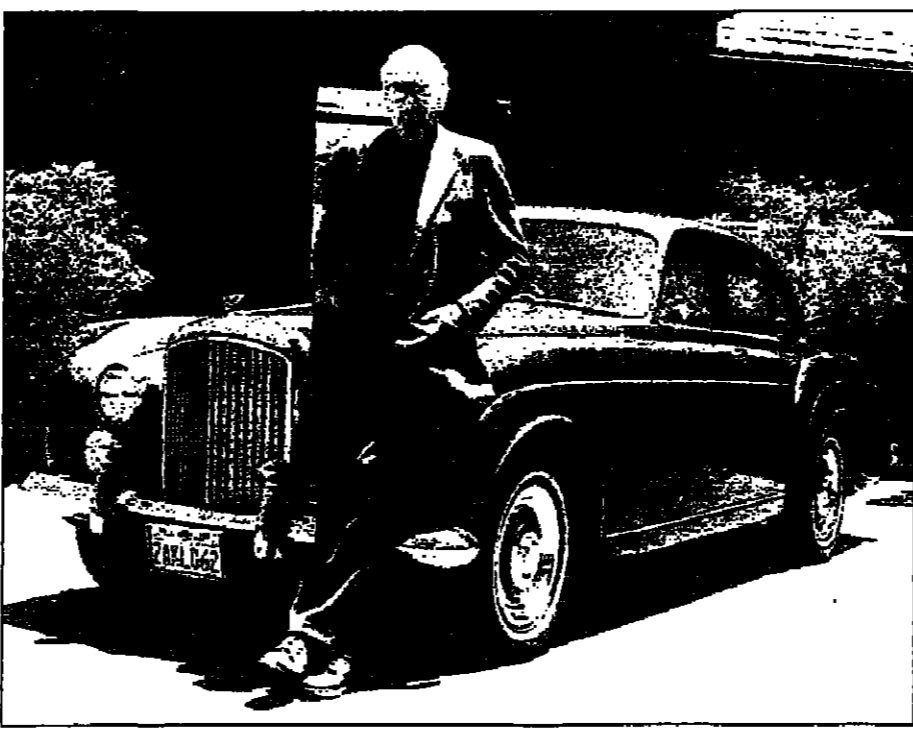
Another Bentley S2 dating from 1962 was bought new by the actress Joan Fontaine and

has been owned by her ever since. In an auction which boasts a choice of 16 Rolls-Royces and is studded with half-million-dollar cars, the Bentleys have comparatively modest estimates of £13,000 to £19,000.

The serious money in the Christie's auction room will be chasing the 1949 Ferrari 166MM, one of only 25 made. It was second in the Mille Miglia, crashed while leading the Le Mans 24-hour race (its driver Pierre Louis Dreyfus used the pseudonym Ferret).

After the car was rebuilt, it went on to win the 24-hour race at Spa, soundly beating the Delages, which boasted engines twice the size of its 2-litre V12. That victory effectively founded the Ferrari racing legend.

This car, with the chassis number 0010M, was subsequently bought by Jim Kimberly, heir to the Kimberly Kleenex fortune and raced on the old Pebble Beach street circuit. In his and other hands it scored a series of victories in American sportscar racing and then passed into the hands of collectors. Its restoration has been so complete that it won a first prize at the Pebble Beach Concours. It could go for £650,000.



Gregory Peck with his cherished 1961 Bentley Flying Spur, used for special outings

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LAND ROVER advertisement featuring a large image of a Land Rover and text describing the 'ASSURED' program and vehicle specifications.

BMW advertisement for M5 1994 L, 60k miles, F18MWSH, with contact information for Gavin Lyne.

BMW WANTED advertisement for B.M.W. WANTED, high mileage condition, best prices paid.

BMW WANTED advertisement for WE DON'T BUY RUN OF THE MILCARS, call Gary Willis on 0831 72227.

CONTRACT HIRE advertisement for LEASING & CONTRACT HIRE, various car models and terms.

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PLATINUM advertisement for VEHICLE LEASING LIMITED, contact number 01924 299991.

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ALL REGISTERED CARS advertisement listing various car models and their monthly rental costs.

BCC BRITISH CAR CONTRACTS advertisement for Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, contact number 0645 424111.

CADILLAC LANDAULETTE 1990 V8 advertisement, 21,000 miles, full service history.

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MGB 1980 advertisement, only 14,000 miles from new, excellent condition.

EXECUTIVE CARS advertisement for Southern Garages, Prestige Vehicle Sales, 01276 25600.

BENTLEY Mk V1 1951 advertisement, small saloon, reg. July 1926.

AUSTIN 7 Very rare 'Top Hat' saloon, reg. July 1926.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY MINI COOPER AUTO advertisement, 1st reg April 96.

ROLLS ROYCE Phantom One advertisement, 1992 model, 12,000 miles.

MODEL T advertisement, 1919 model, 24,000 miles, original condition.

AUSTIN HEALEY 3000 advertisement, works replica, totally restored.

DRIVING TUITION advertisement for What price safety?, contact number 01703 283404.

LAND ROVER advertisement for What price safety?, contact number 01703 283404.

LAND ROVER advertisement for What price safety?, contact number 01703 283404.

FERRARI advertisement for 512BBE 1980, 19k miles, excellent condition.

FERRARI advertisement for 348 SPYDER 1989, 23,000 miles, striking all white/blue.

FERRARI advertisement for 308 GTS 1985, 23,000 miles, striking all white/blue.

FERRARI advertisement for Dick Lovett, 1987 Ferrari 308GTB, 17,000 miles.

FERRARI advertisement for Ferrari Daytona Spyder Replica, 1987 model, 17,000 miles.

LAND ROVER advertisement for ASSURED LAND ROVERS START AT £6000.

ASSURED LAND ROVERS START AT £6000 advertisement, detailing various models and prices.

FERRARI advertisement for FERRARI AUTHORIZED, contact number 01206 855500.

HONDA advertisement for CIVIC COUPE 1983, 12k miles, excellent condition.

HONDA advertisement for CIVIC COUPE 1983, 12k miles, excellent condition.

LAND ROVER advertisement for LAND CRUISER GS/TD 1991, 2,000 miles, full service.

LAND ROVER advertisement for TOYOTA 4 RUNNER 1994, 13,000 miles, 1 owner.

BELL & COLVILL advertisement for a selection of ISUZU and SANGYO stock.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for XJS V12 AUTO 1991, leather, v/c CD, 38k miles.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for XJS V12 AUTO 1991, leather, v/c CD, 38k miles.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for DISCOVERY TDI 1992, 7 seats, alarm, twin sun roofs.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for DISCOVERY 1992, 7 seats, alarm, twin sun roofs.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for DISCOVERY TDI ES 1992, 7 seats, alarm, twin sun roofs.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for LEFT HAND DRIVE, various models.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for MIDLAND LEFT HAND DRIVE, various models.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for LHD CRYSLER VOYAGER SE 1991, 1 owner, in Red.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for CHEVROLET 1991, Blazer 5.0 door, 24,000 miles.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for LAND ROVER AUTHORIZED DEALERS, listing various dealers.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for LAND ROVER AUTHORIZED DEALERS, listing various dealers.

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CAR...TOONS



Eve-Ann Prentice and Colin Winter with get-you-home remedies for mechanical emergencies

Quick-fix tricks to beat breakdowns

Are you nervous about having a breakdown? For women, it can be especially daunting if the car shudders, clanks or hisses to a halt at night or on a lonely road. Yet some emergencies which may seem beyond the wit of non-mechanical man, let alone woman, can be overcome very easily. According to a recent opinion poll a quarter of women drivers do not know how to top up their engine oil, compared with 1 per cent of men. There are 12 million women motorists in Britain and, with five women passing their driving test for every three men, there are expected to be as many female as male drivers on the roads within seven years. Yet a third of women drivers have no idea what engine oil does, according to the poll carried out for Shell last month, so it is hardly surprising that so many do not know how to top it up. Oil is crucial for lubricating and cooling the engine, as well as helping to protect the moving parts from corrosion. Here are simple ways to overcome three of the most frequent causes of breakdown. They are not cures but they will get the vehicle moving again, so you can at least limp to a garage or other help. The only tools required are a roll of PVC insulating tape, a metal nail-file and a torch. Before finding yourself in the unenviable position of scrambling around in the engine compartment for bits of equipment you may find hard to recognise, it would be a good idea before you next venture forth to ask your local garage, or a knowledgeable friend, to point out the oil-filler cap, the dipstick which shows how much oil you have and what condition it is in, the radiator-filler cap, the throttle cable and the carburettor. If the temperature gauge soars to frightening levels, the water hose may have split. Turn off the engine and wait a while before attempting to open the bonnet to allow any

steam to disperse. You will know the hose is to blame because, even if you cannot tell where it is, there will be water everywhere in the engine compartment. Let the engine cool down even longer, using the time to find where the water is coming from. Wrap some PVC tape around the split in the hose. This temporary measure should alleviate the problem while you seek professional assistance. Next, try to put any water from the windshield washer bottle into the radiator. The washer bottle is usually an opaque plastic container and turks, logically

enough, under the bonnet somewhere beneath the windshield. Take care to use a cloth or piece of clothing when removing the radiator cap as it may still be hot. If the engine temperature is high but there is no sign of a deluge of leaking water, it may be that the engine has overheated in heavy traffic in hot weather, a problem to which many older cars are prone. The answer here is to do the opposite of what instinct dictates - and put the car heater full on. The heater is a mini version of the radiator and the fan should draw air through the radiator to allow the

engine to function long enough to seek help. Open the windows to make the car more comfortable. If the clutch cable breaks, it's not the end of the world: contrary to all you may have been told, it is possible to change gear without a clutch, although it requires a little skill. Put the car into first gear and start the ignition. You need to rev the engine carefully until, by the sheer sound, you know you would normally change to first and just ease the gear lever into first position. You can progress from first to fourth in this way. using the engine revs as your guide, though it may take a few false starts before getting it right. If the accelerator cable breaks, pull the choke out and you should get enough power to cruise slowly. If you have an automatic choke - you probably have one if you have never pulled a choke out on cold mornings - look to where the throttle cable enters the carburettor and you should find a throttle adjustment screw. Use a metal nail-file to turn the screw clockwise and you should gain enough power to get you moving again.

USED CAR BRIEF

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY TDI. Now six years old, Discovery is the baby Range Rover, cheaper, smaller, but just as effective off-road. Few ever get stuck into the muddy stuff as most are sold within the M25. Very desirable, the Disco holds its price well. Insurance is high and this heavy car means fuel consumption not much better than 25-30mpg. Rear cabin width 55. Luggage capacity seats up 45.8 cu ft seats down 69.8 cu ft. Overall height 75.6. Wheelbase 107.5. Overall length 178. Ground clearance 7.5. AS measurements in inches. TO AVOID: Model fitted with a low-bar which indicates a hard life dragging horse-boxes out of mired fields. Engines and transmission robust but expensive to repair so watch out for rattles, and ensure all electrical work perfectly. Check heavy rear swing-door has not dropped on hinges. INSURANCE: Thieves love four-wheel drive cars and insurance rates reflect this. Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 3.5-litre 1990 Discovery will cost a 22-year old male in south London, with one year no claims, £1,506 a year fully comprehensive. A similar female pays £1,533. A 55-year-old professional living in Winchester with full no claims pays £205. REPLACEMENT PARTS: Prices include VAT; clutch assembly (exchange) £225; rear shock absorber £26; front brake pads £35; alternator £210; alternator motor (exchange) £194; tyre £114. OVERALL: An excellent off-roader, with ample space but pricey to buy and to run. The question is do you really need it? With a rooney estate or hatch do the job without the penalty of insurance, fuel and running costs? With Discovery, the 'car-as-lifestyle' argument is often decisive.

50 CARS BETWEEN £9,000 & £15,000

Table with 3 columns: MODEL, PRICE (Jul-96), and Chge (Aug-96). Lists various car models and their prices, such as Rover 820 Si 4dr at 11095, Nissan Maxima 3.0 V6 Cat Auto at 10250, and Honda Accord 2.0 LS 4dr at 11450.

MORE THAN 15,000 motorists have bought personalised P-plates since the annual prefix changes on August 1. The total up to August 9 represented a 23 per cent increase on the same period for N-prefix sales last year. Customers were able to reserve their plates a month before the registration change came into force. The P-plate sales so far have generated £7 million revenue, taking the total for the sale of personalised plates to more than £220 million since the

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency first went into the business seven years ago. Byron Roberts, the marketing director for DVLA Sales and more motorists of all types are enjoying choosing their own registration number, and we have now sold more than 400,000 personal registrations through our scheme. Prices for personal P-plates start at £399 and go up to £1,999. Information from the DVLA Registration Hotline 0181-200 6655.

Large advertisement for Mazda MX Coupes. Features the headline 'Stop Dreaming you can afford a sports car' and 'Special Event This Weekend Only 40 MX-5, MX-3 & MX-6'. Includes contact information for TW White & Sons, Leons Hill, Orpington, and phone numbers 01689 831637. Also lists 'OFFICIAL PORSCHE CENTRES' and 'MITSUBISHI'.

Advertisement for Jaguar & Daimler authorised dealers. Features the headline 'MASSIVE MASTERS' and lists various Jaguar models like the XJS V12 S3 Coupe for £13,995. Includes contact information for Kevin Wheldon and Richard Bramwell.

Advertisement for Paladins. Lists various car models such as the 93L XJ6 3.2S, Auto, Air Con for £16,995. Includes contact information for Minster and phone numbers like 01234 730904.

Advertisement for Lancaster cars. Features the headline 'Power and the Glory' and lists various car models like the Jaguar XJS V12 S3 Coupe for £13,995. Includes contact information for Ian Clark and phone numbers like 01223 872872.

Advertisement for 'What's in a name...' and 'Arlington'. Includes contact information for Dick Lovett and phone numbers like 01206 855500.

Claire Evans at a competition celebrating women's four-wheel motor skills

Lady drivers belong off the roads

Steering high and mighty four-wheel-drive vehicles through muddy and mountainous terrain is often seen as a male preserve...

Women make far better off-road drivers than their male counterparts. Men see it as a macho thing and often thrash headlong into the obstacles...

Geddes came up with the idea after watching the untapped talents of female drivers emerge during courses at the off-road driving school run by his company...

On the first stage of the challenge at the West Lodge Rural Centre in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, 21 teams of four women completed eight driving sections across rugged terrain...



Novice drivers gathered into pub and firm teams

The teams had come from as far apart as Scotland and Southampton, and big names such as Cornhill Insurance and Konica mixed with private contenders...

In spite of their differences of the one thing they all shared was a sense of adventure.

"We were very nervous this morning, but after a few hours the confidence had built up and we went for it. We had an excellent day and would love to go on to round two," says Debbie Holt...

The four women from Konica had been nominated from branches in Swansea, Birmingham, London and Scotland and didn't meet until the morning of the event.



Men drive straight into obstacles, women think ahead

"The most difficult parts of the course were the best, they really made us work together guiding each driver through and reminding each other of the completely alien driving techniques necessary like not touching the brakes as you roll down a steep slope," says Andrea Wilson.

Of the 21 entrants, the top ten will make it through to the second stage in the Lake District in September and the final four will go on to the south of France a month later.

F1 Fantasy Drive update



Below we print the results of last week's Hungarian Grand Prix at Budapest, plus the cumulative points in each category for the 11 races in our fantasy game so far.

team name, and the name of the fantasy team manager. The table shows Chris Dare still leading the race with 6,412 points.

TOTAL POINTS AFTER THE HUNGARIAN GP

Table with columns: Group, Driver Name, Last race points, Total Fantasy points. Lists drivers like M Schumacher, J Alesi, D Hill, etc.



HOW YOUR DRIVERS SCORED POINTS IN BUDAPEST

Qualifying points are scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid...

F1 FANTASY DRIVE LEADERBOARD AFTER 11 RACES

Table with columns: Rank, Driver Name, Fantasy Points. Lists drivers like Locust, J Hunt U, etc.

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below...

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Loncaster. City of London.

MULSANNE. 1983. Black with red leather interior.

BENTLEY TURBO R. LWB, 670, Georgian Sher/Blue leather.

BENTLEY BROOKLANDS. 96N, Wilderly park, 1 owner, 4K.

SHADOW II. 78 S, Pasceok Plus 64,000 miles, FSI excellent condition.

BENTLEY TURBO R. 1986 C, 618k in excellent condition.

BENTLEY S3. 1963. Stand overable 2nd owner for 25 yrs. V.G.C.

MULSANNE. 1983. Black with red leather interior. Excellent overall condition.

With your help, our centenary search has unearthed more machines and created a mystery, says Tony Dawe

Shy models found with famous names

ADRIAN BROOKS

MOTOR CITY
COVENTRY

30th August to 1st September 1996

Proud owners are set to parade rare and beautiful machines built by well-known manufacturers

Sitting in a cornfield in Warwickshire, the splendid red 1920s coupe looks as if it is taking part in a publicity shoot for a remake of *Bonnie and Clyde*. It is in reality preparing for the celebration of one hundred years of the British motor industry.

The Standard Charleote, made in 1926 and the only one surviving, will feature in a parade of famous Coventry-made cars which will launch three days of festivities in the city at the end of this month.

The elegant motor, which is in perfect working order after much restoration, has come to light after *Car 96* joined forces with the organisers of *Motor in the City* to hunt for models from the dozens of Coventry carmakers.

The search has turned up Cluleys and Stoneleighs and provided proof, if not examples, of Emms and Iden. The latest haul includes more familiar names: Standard and Siddeley, Avon and Cooper — but less familiar models. The Charleote is owned and driven by Paul Newsome, whose family has earned its own place in Coventry's motoring history.

"On quiet straight country roads the car goes quite well and is reasonably lively, but on winding roads and in traffic it can be difficult," he says.

"The car has a centrally placed accelerator which means I have to concentrate harder. If it's raining, every time I put my foot on the pedal the windscreen wipers stop because they work by vacuum."

The Charleote was one of several stylish models built by Standard in the 1920s and named after Warwickshire towns. Its crafted badge and dashboard were typical of the care lavished on the models, but few were made and the company had more success with its cheaper models, the Standard Eight and Ten.

Newsome snapped up the car in 1961 because it dates from the year his father Sammy first won a franchise to sell Standard cars.



The sole surviving 1931 Standard Charleote coupe poses ready for the cavalcade. The car was one of several stylish models built by the Coventry carmaker in the 1920s and named after local towns

Newsome senior was himself a Coventry carmaker in the early 1920s, producing light cars with Coventry Climax engines. "Only a handful were made because there were dozens of people producing similar cars, so he set up the dealership instead," his son says. He did however produce a racing version called the Warwick for a 500-mile race at Brooklands but it performed poorly and that enterprise died as well. Both Cooper and Warwick feature in the list of Coventry-made models which can no longer be traced.

Siddeley name were made for a couple of years and one is owned and driven by Bradshaw.

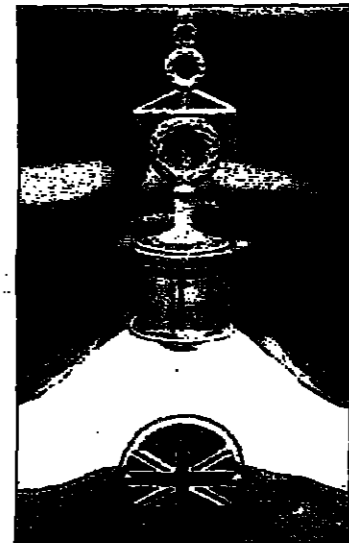
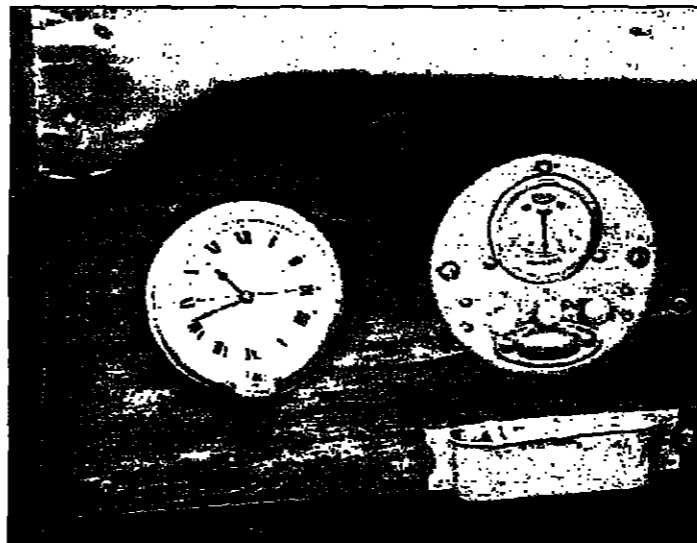
It was miles ahead of its day, he says, "with a belt-driven fan, gearbox and engine linked together and overhead inlet valves with side exhausts".

After the Wolseley takeover Siddeley joined the company founded by Captain Deasy and added his initials to the name of a model which Bradshaw also owns. Siddeley-Deasy cars were produced until a merger with Armstrong Whitworth of Newcastle led to the famous Armstrong Siddeley marque.

"My 1910 Deasy JDS is the only one which survives and has been in my family for fifty years," Bradshaw says. "It is used regularly, has been from John O'Groats to

Lands End and abroad. It's a very original car, a four-seat 12hp tourer with a radiator on the bulkhead and a bonnet shape which earned it the nickname of Jack Siddeley's coffin."

Bradshaw and his son Jonathan will be driving the two cars in the Coventry Collection parade on Friday August 30 and one man who hopes to join them is John Mauger of Beccles, Suffolk. He owns a 1949 Alvis 14 drop-head coupe with bodywork by Carbodies of Coventry, better known now for making London taxis. "I expect Carbodies bodywork is already well represented," writes Mauger, "but my very original and low-mileage car is not on any list so the organisers will not know about it." Now they do, and the parade is becoming more and more impressive.



The Charleote's dashboard and badge typify the care lavished on Standard's costlier products

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win a fabulous day's racing at Silverstone

The Times, in association with ACC Jaguar, offers you the chance to win an exciting day at the British GT Championships at Silverstone, Northants, on Sunday, October 13.

The winner and a companion will be VIP guests of the ACC Jaguar team. You will meet their four drivers, visit the pits, have an unrivalled view of the race and enjoy a superb buffet lunch.

You will also be given some top quality ACC Jaguar merchandise.

Three runners-up will each win an exclusive ACC Jaguar sweatshirt.

With its first major sponsorship leading telephone service provider, ACC, is pinning its hopes of a win on two race-modified cars in the BRDC GT Championships. The 3.5-litre mid-engined Jaguar XJ220s produce more than 600 bhp.

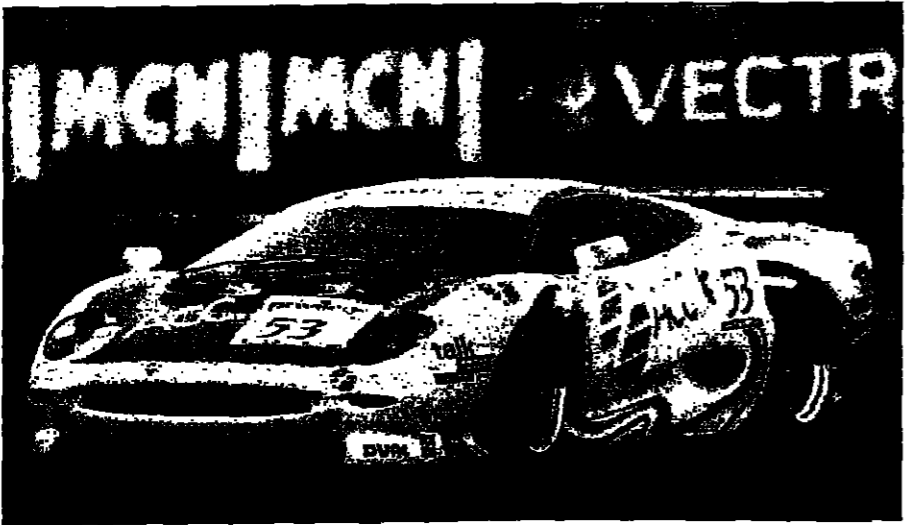
The cars (one is pictured below) will be competing with the McLaren F1, Marcos and Porsche 993 in the climax of the British GT championships.

HOW TO ENTER

Call our competition hotline with your answer to the following question:

What is the brake horse power of the ACC Jaguar XJ220?

The winner and runners-up will be chosen at random from all correct entries received before midnight on Wednesday, August 21. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.



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Call cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times

Was carmaker Marendaz really a noble?



The Marendaz Special: a reader had difficulty getting rid of one

More accounts of the shadowy Count

Of all the characters associated with the first hundred years of the British motor industry, Marcus Marendaz has stirred most interest among readers. Sheila Lewis of Coventry wrote last month of her father's excitement at working for Count Marendaz and riding with the cars to the station to be dispatched by rail.

James Thomas of London recalls that Marendaz was a premium apprentice at the same time as his

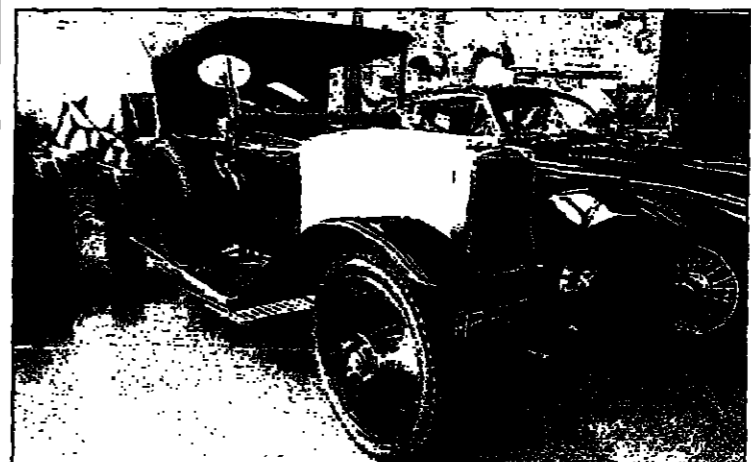
father, Cyril John Thomas, at the Siddeley-Deasy company in Coventry. He writes: "In 1912, in their first year, the apprentices got a penny an hour. I have my father's indenture which shows this."

Marendaz later moved to Brixton and then Maidenhead, where he produced his Marendaz Specials.

Mrs Langley of Campton, Bedfordshire, sent a photograph of one of the Specials owned by her late husband. "He purchased the Marendaz from a Mr Bendall of Stevenage in the early 1950s for £95 and we spent a lot of time doing it up including painting it in post office red with black mudguards. I had the headlights rechromed at the Marmet baby carriage factory in Leitchworth where I worked."

"When we got engaged, he realised he couldn't afford to run it, so after trying to sell it to various garages on the North Circular in London, he sold it back to Mr Bendall for £25. It would be wonderful if we could still trace the car."

Readers remind us of forgotten marque



Coventry's British Museum of Road Transport has an example

The fated Albatros returns to haunt us

The fateful omission of one important marque in our list of Coventry-made cars published on July 20 has pursued us like its doom-laden namesake.

Mr B. Blackwell, secretary of the Standard Register writes to report a sighting of the Albatros, marketed in the 1923-24 season. An unremarkable "assembled" small car, he says, powered by a Coventry Climax engine definitely made an appearance in a car showroom in Cardigan in the mid to late 1960s. "I would opine that it is probably still extant," he assures us.

In fact the Museum of British Road Transport at Coventry can confirm his theory: it has a 1923 Albatros four-cylinder tourer preserved in its own museum.

Whether the car was originally intended to have a name of ill omen or was merely a corruption of its maker's name, Albert Ross, is still disputed by motoring historians.

The company was certainly ill-fated, surviving for just two years,

from 1923 to 1924 and was typical of many small firms which went into the motor industry but just could not make a go of it.

The model in the museum is ten horsepower and has been completely refurbished to its original condition with an open two-seater body with dickey seat.

The museum has also unearthed an advertisement from *The Light Car and Cyclecar magazine* which offers a model called "Chummy" for £240 "delivery at works" including "electric lighting, self-starter, spare wheel and cord tyres".

The museum will be at the centre of the British motor industry's centenary celebrations at the end of this month, with special displays and a mini street for youngsters to practise the highway Code and their driving skills in pedal cars. It will also be sending some of its prize exhibits, including six historic Daimlers on the Mayflower Shakespear run through Warwickshire on Sunday September 1.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

CAR 96

DR DASHBOARD

Can I learn to scooter?

Q I always thought motorbikes were for kids or middle-aged macho blokes...

A So long as you opt for a scooter with an engine of less than 50cc...

Q I'm not really Hell's Angel material, but I think I'd like something a bit larger than that...

A That depends how old you are and what kind of scooter or bike you want...

Q I don't like the sound of "New law" That's the kind of phrase that strikes fear into the heart of the sanest road user...

A You need to pass a theory test to ride a moped or motorcycle, just as you would for a car...

Q How long does the Compulsory Basic Training course take and where do I go to do it?

A A dealer or the MRTA will point you in the right direction, but you must go to a training organisation which is approved by the Driving Standards Agency...

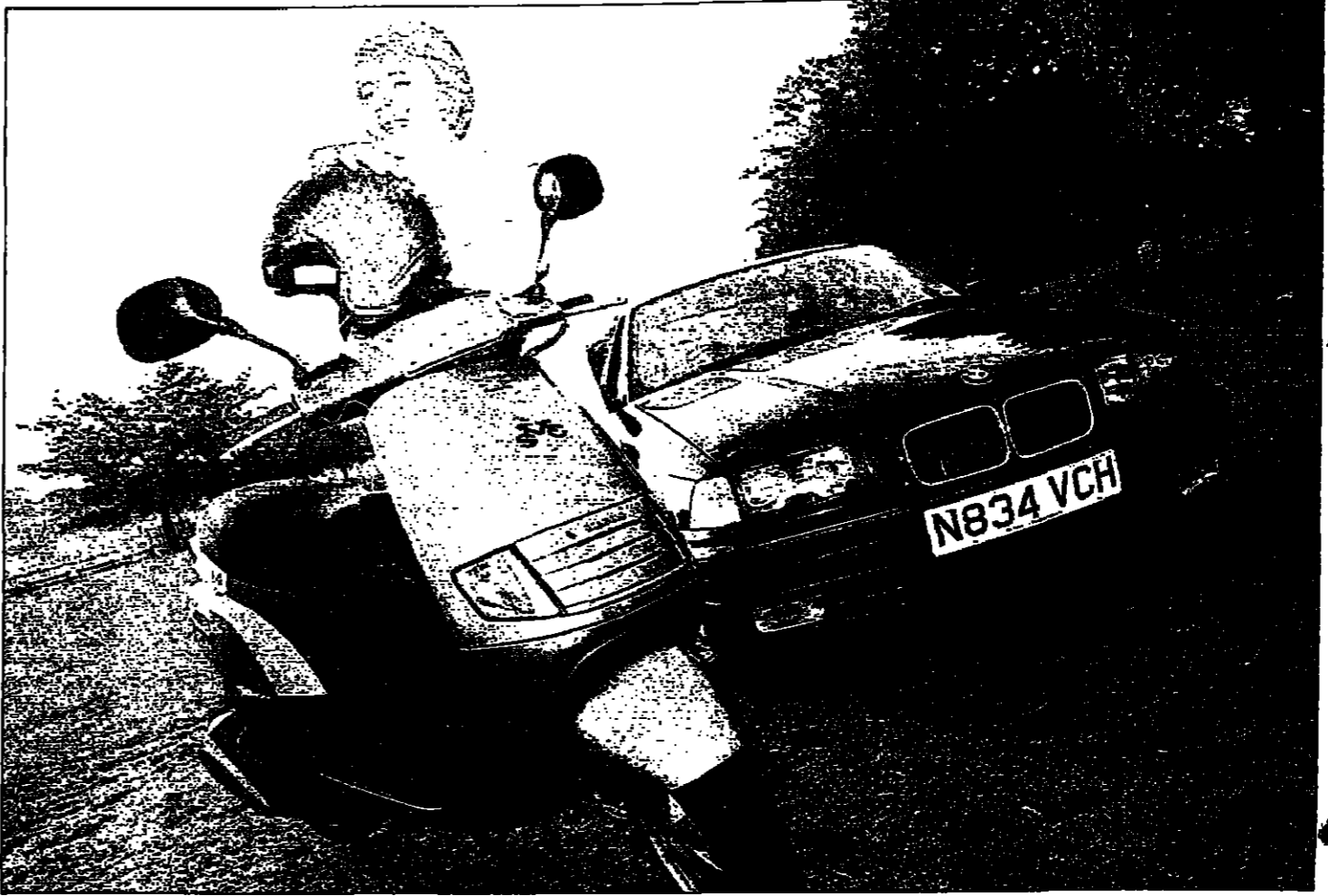
three years to pass the theory and practical driving tests.

Q This sounds like a lot of training to start. What happens after all that?

A That depends how old you are, whether you already have a full car licence and what sort of motorcycle licence you want...

Q And what are these three different sorts of motorcycle licence about, then?

A An automatic licence, which could be useful for scooter riders; a light motorcycle licence which restricts you to 125cc...



Monica Dickman: I would give tax relief to people who travel to work by environmental modes of transport to boost two-wheelers

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The day I took my Cortina gliding. Jennai Cox talks to long-term scooter rider Monica Dickman.

Bikes were in her blood before she was born, says Monica Dickman. She has worked in the motorcycle industry for 25 years...

With the British School of Motoring, mostly in Minis, and I passed my test first time. I took it in the days when you still had to do hand signals...

A beige Morris Minor. I bought it with my fiancée after passing my test. When we split up he kept the car and I kept the ring.

A black, N-registration BMW 3-Series. Thoroughly. Although it does sometimes depend on whether it is business or recreational...

A 1970 Mercedes sports car, the one with the bubble on the top. That would be perfect. I would give tax relief to people who travel to work by environmental modes of transport...

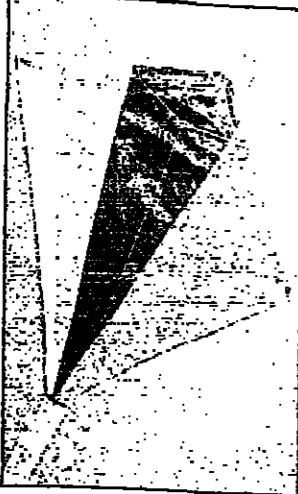
The Peugeot adverts are good. I like the one with the little girl who runs out onto the road and I love the music. Whether they help to sell more cars I have no idea.



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

551 من الامارات

SHOPPING

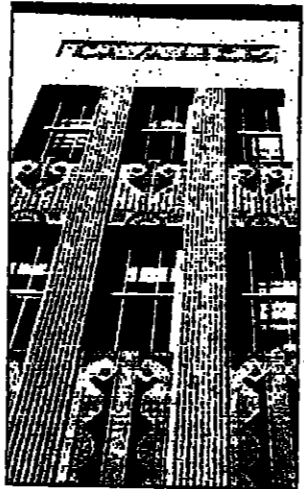


The power and the pleasure of flying a kite

Page 7

PLUS: Would you buy a tarantula? Page 4

TRAVEL

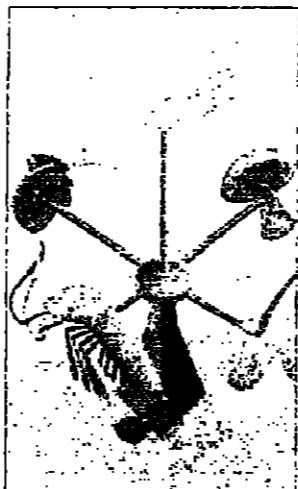


The Art Deco and other delights of Miami

Page 15

PLUS: The magic of Brazil, page 18

FOOD



Delicious free food in the country and at the seaside

Page 3

PLUS: The best of afternoon teas, page 3

GOING OUT



Classic country gardens to visit this weekend

Page 13

PLUS: Holiday events for children, page 12

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

LES GRANDES DAMES DU VIN



In a quiet corner of Alsace three powerful female noses control their own vineyard.

Kate Muir sniffed them out



In early evening the sun comes through the wooden blinds bathing the refectory table in stripes. At harvest time this table seats 30 pickers, mostly housewives enjoying a few weeks off in the vineyards. On those days sizeable country stews are served, with wine by the litre. Tonight, however, the fare is more elegant and the finest vintages are open on the table, proudly labelled "Colette Faller et ses filles".

This is one of the few vineyards in France run by a mother and her daughters. If Domaine Weinbach at Kayserberg in Alsace is not exactly a feminist vineyard, it is certainly a feminine one. Mme Faller, widow and matriarch of all she surveys, produces wines, the guides say, of such elegance and subtlety that they could not be wrought by the hand of man.

After long experience, Mme Faller and her daughters, Catherine and Laurence, know the proof is in the palate. They seat the photographer and me at the long table. Their assault on our tastebuds begins with a crisp '94 riesling accompanied by a white fillet of Emperor steamed with fresh ginger and leeks, then foie gras with a sweeter gewürztraminer. A muscat and a tokay appear with fresh Münster cheese with cumin, followed by melon sorbet ringed by raspberries.

Three generations of the Faller family line the long table, each tucking a time-honed nose into every glass, tasting, testing before they swallow. As guests, we lack the full-blown vocabulary of experts, but Laurence, at 29 a trained oenologist, describes the Riesling Grand Cru Schlossberg Cuvée Sainte Catherine 1995 as having "a rich, very ripe nose, with an aroma of mango, pineapple and peach".

"Mango," we say weakly. "Of course. Couldn't be anything else." Then Mme Faller gets out her home-made eaux-de-vie, a series of sub-nuclear fruit brandies made, basically, from the scrapings at the bottom of the barrel—the skins of plums after the juice has gone, the remains of pears. They give an alcoholic kick with barely a memory of the fruit, which madame insists we guess, sipping many times.

Like the best French people, the Fallers know the importance of eating well and drinking well—that is, after all, their business. Their kitchen, in what used to be the old monastery of Clos des Capucins, is testament to that. In the twilight, aided by the tastings of probably six different wines, the old painted pans, the iron stove and the glowing wood of the table turn the room into a painting. "It looks like a Breughel or a Vermeer," muses Laurence. "Yes, but no one smoked in a Vermeer," her mother snaps.

We are on the territory of one tough cookie, a phrase for which there is no translation in France. When Mme Faller took over her husband Théo's successful business after his death in 1979, she found that her fellow winegrowers and merchants were "correct" in their behaviour towards her, but no more. It was a struggle to convince people that the wine was as good, if not better, than before. Although France has a tradition of widows taking over the estate, such as Veuve Clicquot, until recently

Continued on page 2, col 1

FOOD.....3	PETS.....4	GARDENING.....5	SHOPPING.....7	PROPERTY.....9	BOOKS.....10,11	GOING OUT...12,13	TRAVEL.....15-20	GAMES.....21
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Relax

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RAP

'Men smell white flowers in a wine; women detect eglantine or hawthorn'

MARK HARRISON (AND COVER)

Continued from page 1
grapes were very much male territory, like the rest of agriculture.

"I learnt everything from my husband, but I was also a good pupil," Mme Faller says later, driving like a maniac up twisting dirt roads through her vines, leaving a dust trail through the gewürztraminer and pinot gris. "I realised that the land here, and the varieties of grapes it will take, provide an extraordinary palette. There is no monotone here."

So little by little the wines, and their marketing, began to change. Cathérine, 40, who has two sons, took over the commercial side of the business, and Laurence took a wine diploma after studying chemistry at university. (It seemed impolite, as well as scary, to ask the well-preserved Mme Faller her age.)

The Fallers created two special crus from late harvests, named after daughters and saints: Sainte Cathérine and Laurence. Only the most brave vineyard owners can risk leaving the grapes on the vine into October until they are sweet, shrivelled and ripe-to-rotting.

This is Alsace as you have seen it only on Christmas cards: half-timbered houses with multicoloured window-boxes and doors hand-painted with flowers, winding streets, cute church towers, all nesting in green valleys among rolling vines and, of course, rolling parties of tourists with camcorders.

Still, no need to sniff at the tourists. Independent visitors buying wine after a tasting in the lace-tablecloth parour, under the old tiled stove, provide almost a third of the vineyard's takings. Much of the rest of the wine goes directly to restaurants or is exported to America, Japan, and Germany. Mme Faller has traded with Oddbins in Britain, "but they want such huge quantities we can rarely

6 The whole domain is reminiscent of Dallas, with Mme Faller as Miss Ellie

fulfil them", she says. The technique of making a few thousand bottles of each wine prevents mass-marketing.

Later, in the parlour — under wall lights made of plastic grapes and paintings of the seven deadly sins, including gluttony — we try six different wines from 1995, each utterly different. I have to admit that this is my first official experience of wine tasting, though not of drinking. I am not fully au fait with the correct manner of sniffing, sloshing, slurping and spitting.

Laurence, however, helps with words to describe the tokay '95, such as "a taste dense and rounded, a gentle finish". She explains that within only 60 acres, Domaine Weinbach has sunny south-facing hills, valley vineyards and soils from sandy to limestone, each patch of land, like the rest of Alsace, with its own flavours. This, coupled with three finely honed female palates, results in wines sought by the best restaurants in Paris: the Crillon, the Tour d'Argent and Guy Savoy among others.

Laurence says: "Women do have a different nose for wine. They might produce something more elegant, less heavy and overblown."

As *La Revue du Vin de France* put it: "Each wine has an individual character, colour, tone and style. The Faller ladies are veritable jewellers, cutters of diamonds which light up all the facets of the rieslings, gewürztraminers and tokays planted in the four corners of their domaine."

The whole domaine is oddly reminiscent of Dallas, with Mme Faller as the matriarchal Miss Ellie figure, prone to Texan-style jewellery and sequinned denim skirts, and the daughters as Sue Ellen and Pammy. The only men in sight



Colette Faller (far left), with her two daughters, Laurence, left, and Cathérine (both standing), and two visitors: their wines have become drier to reflect recent changes in taste away from sweet, rich ones

VINEYARDS FOR SALE

IF YOU are inspired to follow the Fallers' example, finding a suitable vineyard in Britain could be difficult. They come up for sale infrequently and are usually snapped up as soon as they appear, Cheryl Taylor writes.

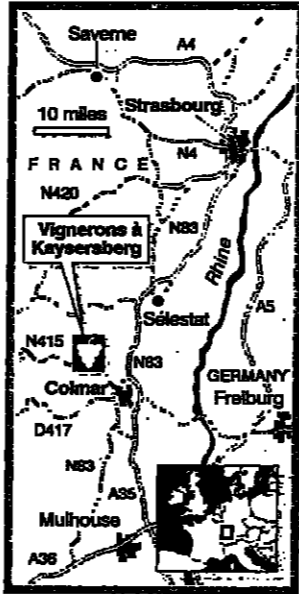
There is more scope in France, where a small workable vineyard in a wine-growing area in the southwest can be picked up for £200,000, with a restored farmhouse and up to 22 acres of vines. Here are three examples of vineyards on the market:

■ **FRANCE:** Château les Crostes, Provence. Refurbished 18th-century château with a fully equipped vineyard and estate in 217 hectares (about 538 acres), including 52.53 hectares of Côtes de Provence vines, an hour's drive from Nice airport. The house has nine bedrooms, nine bathrooms, four reception rooms, nursery, billiard room, kitchen, swimming pool, tennis court, orchard, olive grove, paddock wood and parkland. Winery

bottling room, storage, offices and staff accommodation. About £8.5 million.

■ **GERMANY:** the Ashrott Vineyards, Hochheim am Main. Commercial vineyard in 12 hectares (about 30 acres) in the famous Rheingau district. House with manager's accommodation, staff flat, tasting rooms and estate office. Traditional winery in 18th-century cellars, bottling/packing room, workshop and stores. About £1.8 million.

■ **CORNWALL:** Hybadore, Golant-by-Fowey. Award-winning vineyard in 15 acres, with main house (former dairy), self-contained cottage, modern winery, stable block and outbuildings. The main house has two bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, cloakroom and a first floor room (60ft x 17ft) with balcony and external staircase. Offers over £350,000. The agent to contact for all three vineyards is Knight Frank (0171-828 8171).



The award-winning 15-acre Hybadore vineyard at Golant-by-Fowey, Cornwall

under my parents may no longer find it to their taste," she shrugs.

Laurence Faller says their wines have changed, too. "Many taste drier than before; it's more popular. Sweet rich wine was more 1980s style."

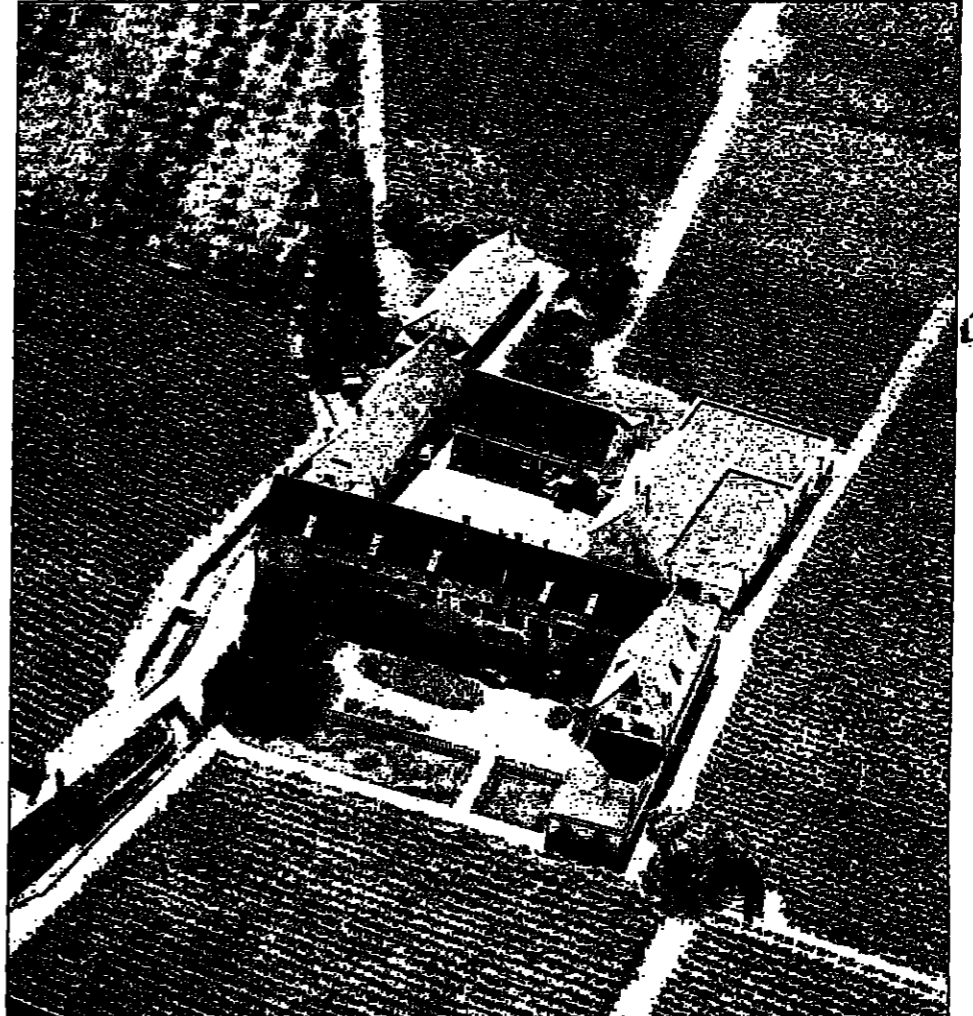
Such subtle alterations are possible once the methods of wine-making are made more precise. Laurence worked for a while at the huge Sonoma-Cutter vineyards in California and learnt many of the latest techniques. The Domaine Weinbach has new stainless-steel wine presses and a pristine modern bottling and filtering plant, but the great oak barrels in the chilly 14C cellar are 80 years old and made of oak — new wood might tarnish the taste of the wine.

The whole operation, although it does not say so on the bottles, is nearly organic. Neither chemicals nor yeasts are added to the wine: fermentation is entirely natural, and no insecticides are used on the vines. The grapes are picked by hand, just as they were when the first vines were planted here by the Capuchin monks in 890. The Fallers' finest bottles, the Sélection de Grains Nobles (made from grapes affected by noble rot), are picked grape by grape resulting in a few, extraordinary wines.

The slightly revulsion monks were run out by Revolutionaries in 1789 and the land was sold to private owners, eventually the Fallers in 1898.

Mme Faller, however, still has that sense of vocation about her work. "I didn't just marry a man," she says dramatically. "I married the cause of wine in Alsace."

Kate Muir on Paris, page 19



The Fallers's 60-acre Domaine Weinbach, where each patch of land has its own flavours

JANE MACQUITTY GIVES HER VERDICT

My two favourite Alsace wine producers are Domaine Weinbach, run by Colette Faller and her two daughters, and Zind-Humbrecht run by Léonard Humbrecht and his son Olivier. The grape harvest from superbly sited vineyards is tiny at both properties, with yields about half the level of their competitors, so that their wines taste astonishingly rich, complex and concentrated compared with other vins d'Alsace. Once the grapes have been hand-harvested the Humbrechts' and Fallers' grapes continue to ferment and age in the most traditional manner possible, in the large old oak foudres, or vats. These were once the only vessels the Alsace region possessed but they have now been replaced elsewhere by stainless steel.



spacious and majestic vaulted cellars of the Fallers offer plenty of room for the neat soldier-like rows of 6ft-tall large oval vats resting on cobblestones. And that's where the similarities stop. The full, firm Faller wines, nurtured by women, are actually rather more masculine in style than those of the supremely aromatic, rich, floral, violet and rose-scented Zind-Humbrecht wines. The other great difference between the two is that a lot of the Humbrechts' 18,000-case production is sold in Britain, compared with only a few hundred cases of the Faller wines.

At present there are just two Faller wines available here, the 1994 Riesling Cuvée Sainte Cathérine (Oddbins £15.99), whose rich, steely, powerfully verdant style is full of green nettle and lime-like fruit (yes, it does have a finish reminiscent of peaches and mangoes), and the 1994 Tokay Pinot Gris, Réserve Particulière (Oddbins £12.99), with its wonderful, intense, spicy, nutty fruit, a great food wine with tremendous finesse.

Jane Macquitty's Drink column, Magazine, page 37

Wine Courses
10 Evenings, early Oct. - Dec. 1996

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EXPT 1520

Shirley Bond's cookbook is like a bible, with help for every day of your life. But disobey the commandments and all hell breaks loose

Thou shalt not cheat on the recipe

I don't know what you look for holiday reading this year — Cooper, Deighton, Higgins, Trollope? I shunned them all in favour of a gripping read that had me trembling at every turn of the page and held me until the very last word. It haunts me still and the urge to read it again from cover to cover is overwhelming. Nothing in the kitchen will ever be the same.

Written by Bond, Shirley Bond, this thriller bears the less than rousing title, *Home Measures*. But do not be fooled; it is a throbber of a read and, what's more, every word in it is true. I hope.

Like a bible, it has something to help you through every day of your life. For example, let us imagine that we are baking a Christmas cake. How much almond paste will we need, and how much royal icing with which to clothe it? Shirley Bond has the precise answer: two-and-a-quarter pounds of almond paste and two-and-a-half of royal icing.

You may know that already, but to novice cooks like me this sort of information is beyond price. As are the

exact proportions for building a wedding cake. In my nightmares I am asked to cook a three-tier wedding cake and spend the night before the nuptials working at it with an electric sander in order to give it a crafted rather than flung-together look. Well, if your bottom tier is 30.5cm, the middle 23cm and the top 15cm, your cake will look as though it has been designed by Christopher Wren himself.

Come Christmas, restless night hours will be averted by knowing in advance that to make 50 mince pies 6cm in diameter needs 1.5kg of home-made pastry and 1kg of mince-meat, and should I ever be made an honorary member of the WRVS, then I shall need to know that two pints of milk are required for every gallon of tea.

Do you ever look at a cake tin and wonder how big it is? Do you long to avoid those moments of deep despair when you pour your rich and luscious

cake mixture into the tin to find it only rises an inch up the sides, and you realise that after cooking you will need a potholer to extract it? Bond can help you.

She says: "Fill [the tin] to the very top with water, or to the height you want the finished cake to be. Tip the water into a measuring jug and read the capacity. Make one-and-a-half pounds of fruit cake mixture for every pint of water measured." Magic.

I assume she is right. It would be a cruel betrayal if she kidded us about the capacity of standard-sized pudding bowls or how many profiteroles in the kilogram of choux pastry (65g makes 20, apparently). Convincing though it all sounds, I

HOME MADE



Paul Heiney

decided to test it and took as my starting point the handed-down wisdom that a successful Swiss roll can only be baked in a correctly sized Swiss roll tin. Too big a tin leaves an unrollable Swiss lump; too thick gives you indigestion because the middle will not be cooked when the outside is a nice shade of brown.

So, if you are using the standard recipe of 4oz flour, 4oz caster sugar and three eggs, do not dare attempt a Swiss roll unless the tin is 9in by 13in by 4in. I sent out for a new one for the occasion, noting how the family seem only too ready to undertake errands which involve leaving the house when I am at the stove.

According to the label on the new non-

stick, it was one-sixteenth of an inch shorter and three-sixteenths deeper than Shirley Bond insists. Surely, this could not matter?

I whisked the eggs and sugar till thick, foamy and pale yellow; then sieved the flour on to a plate.

Opinion seems to vary about the flour. Even the Aga cookbook writers, those Old Testament scribes of the home-comfort school of cookery, cannot decide whether to use plain or self-raising. I used the latter for the simple reason that there was none of the former, hoping that such serendipity may prove the basis of great cuisine, as in the sandwich.

I folded the flour into the whisked mixture, carefully so as not to release the air and, with my breath held, poured the mixture into the tin. It fitted. It really fitted. Neither too much, nor too little.

Good old Shirley. She now has my complete trust. When she says that 8oz of suet mixture makes 16 dumplings, I shall never doubt her.

I cooked my Swiss roll for ten minutes, and it was gloriously light and browned. It came out of the tin with no trouble despite enjoying the perfect fit, and then a fearful thought occurred. Would it roll? It would not. It went so far but then cracks appeared as deep as the bed of a Yorkshire reservoir in summer. I half expected to see a tiny environment secretary standing in the middle of it for a photo-opportunity.

Sadly, I let the sponge flop back, unrolled, I blame those extra three-sixteenths on the depth. I told you it was like a bible; disobey the commandments, put in an extra cubit of gopher-wood without divine authority, and all hell will break loose.

As for the Swiss unroll, I spread it thickly with double cream, sliced strawberries on top, cut it in half and made the best of a bad job. A sandwich.

Home Measures by Shirley Bond is published by Grub Street, £7.99.

CHOCOLATE BOX

DIABETIC chocolate is a great concept. As chocolate depends for its appeal on fat — cocoa solids and butter — and sugar, and the current thinking on sensible eating for diabetics is to cut the intake of both, the idea of a chocolate safe for diabetics is highly attractive. In various retailers and even chemists' shops you will see confectionery labelled as suitable for diabetics.

You might think that the British Diabetic Association would be happy to endorse it. You'd be wrong. "A waste of time," says an association spokeswoman. "It is up to four times as expensive as ordinary chocolate, often just as high in fat and calories; and the types of sweeteners used instead of sugar can have a laxative effect if you eat a lot at one go. It won't do you any harm, but it won't do you any good, either."

It seems that these products originally came onto the market when official thinking was that diabetics should have a high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet. Not now. High levels of fibre, low levels of fat — especially saturated fat — and the control of sugar intake, are the watchwords. "About 80 per cent of non-insulin dependent diabetics are overweight, and besides, foods high in fat are bad because of fat's role in heart disease," says a BDA dietician. It should be emphasised that every diabetic's dietary needs will be different, and one-to-one consultation is essential.

THE BDA leaflet, *Food & Diabetes — How to get it right*, contains the suggestion: "As long as your day-to-day eating is healthy and, on the whole, your blood glucose levels are good, the occasional celebration meal or little bit of chocolate will do you no harm. Enjoy it and carry on." The association's *Eating Well with Diabetes* has the admonition: "Avoid special diabetic products. They can be expensive and offer no special health benefit."

The best consolation for chocolate fans who are diagnosed as diabetic is along the lines of: "You can eat ordinary chocolate, but only occasionally, and only a little." So just one square of Valrhona for me, thanks.

TONY PATRICK

For more information, contact the British Diabetic Association (0171-323 1531; fax 0171-637 3644) at 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BB. There is also a Careline, on 0171-636 6112, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Go wild for free

BACK FROM holiday in Devon and Wales, it struck me how much of a free open larder the country is and what little use we make of it. In Devon, I netted wriggling thumb-sized prawns, in Wales I picked pea-sized, sweet wild cherries, sharp blueberries and wild sorrel for salads.

Whether it is cockles from the Gower Peninsula or the Southampton Sound, marsh samphire from Norfolk, cob nuts from Kent, crab apples from the New Forest, damsons from Cumbria or chateaubriets from the Highlands, every area seems to have some wild food to offer. But blackberries apart, we seem reluctant to play the role of hunter-gatherer.

Why is this? Could it be that we are too bone idle? Or are we too nervous of being poisoned? If the latter is the case, then you can do no better than consult Roger Phillips's *Wild Food* (Macmillan, £12.99). A classic of its kind, there are helpful photographs to point you in the right direction.

Now the mushroom season has started, you should also get hold of a copy of Roger Phillips's *Mushrooms* (Macmillan £12.99). He may not tell you where the best spots are — no true mycologist ever would — but armed with his book you will be able to identify your pickings. Failing that, Valvona & Crolla, 19 Elm Row, Edinburgh is running mushroom identification "surgeries" on September 2, 16 and 30 under Dr Watling of Edinburgh's Botanical Gardens. Ring 0131-556 6066 for details.

And if you need help finding the little blighters, the Tasty Mushroom Partnership is organising all-day forays from hotels, starting on September 2 in Derbyshire and continuing in Norfolk, Shropshire, Grampian and Hampshire, until mid-October. Contact Peter Jordan, Poppy Cottage, Station Road, Burnham Market, Norfolk PE31 8HA (01328 738841).

TOMORROW

The outlook is good: from prawns in Devon to crab apples in the New Forest and cob nuts in Kent, every area in Britain has a wealth of wild food waiting to be harvested

Beef on beef

I LOVE a joint of good roast beef but I've not been able to buy what I want recently. This is due to a curious anomaly. Beef from cattle more than 30 months old, you may remember, has been banned from entering the food chain. But why 30 months? It seems such an arbitrary figure, particularly as the experts now believe that cows don't develop BSE until at least 50 months old. It appears that, because supermarkets did not handle beef cuts and joints from cattle older than 30 months, this was the figure the Ministry of

DIGEST

Henrietta Green

MAFF has now decided to go ahead, but it has laid such stringent conditions that Mr Greig fears that few of our 2,000 traditional beef farmers will be able to comply. So we are back to square one and the

lovers of best British beef will still be starved of supplies.

If you want to know more about the scheme or to try Mr Greig's beef — from cattle under 30 months old, of course — contact him at Pipers Farm, Cullompton, Exeter, Devon EX15 1SD (01392 881380).

Cure all

IF, LIKE ME, you prefer kippers cured and smoked from locally landed fresh herrings — this is your opportunity. Most kippers on sale come from frozen herrings imported from Iceland. While there is nothing wrong with that — the fish are plump and juicy, and suffer no loss of flavour in being frozen — I prefer buying British fish.

Kippers have been smoked for generations at L. Robson of Craster, Northumberland. But nowadays far fewer British fish are landed as our stocks have never properly recovered from overfishing in the 1970s. The herring-for-kipper season on the North East coast used to last from mid-May through to September, now it runs from mid-July to August. After that, the fish start to spawn, reducing their oil content, making them unacceptable for a good kipper, and also relatively small.

At this time of year, L. Robson will mail-order kippers from locally landed her-

Hey pesto

IT SEEMS incredible that pesto — a glorious green confection of basil, pine kernels, olive oil and parmesan cheese that cheers up any pasta — has been with us for such a short time.

Apart from Italian specialist delis, it was first imported by the Italian manufacturer Sacla in 1989. In those days only 100,000 jars were sold, but now sales have rocketed to near the six million mark, and cost about £1.49 a jar.

Unlike the poor sun-dried tomato that has suffered the fickle fate of fashion, sales show no signs of falling. Even as I write, the basil is being

harvested in Liguria and, to give the sun-dried tomato a chance, Sacla has added it to make red pesto. Fashion freaks and Italians may not approve, but I rather like it.

More food and drink in the Magazine

On your skates for a tea party

FAST FOOD

Put the other slices of bread on top. Cut the crusts off the sandwiches (it makes all the difference) and cut each sandwich into four triangles.

Make sandwich

Spread eight thin slices of white bread with a little cream cheese. Cover four slices with thin slices of cucumber and 100g (4oz) prawns. Season with salt and black pepper.

Make cinnamon toast

Toast four thin slices of white bread on one side under a grill. Spread them on the untoasted side with a generous amount of butter and sprinkle with caster sugar and a large pinch of ground cinnamon over each one. Put back under the grill until the sugar melts to a nice buttery crust. Take care the edges of the bread do not burn. Cut into fingers.

Prepare fruit

Wash 300g (1lb 2oz) strawberries, but you do not need to hull them. Wash four peaches.

Serve tea

For some reason, tea does taste better in bone-china cups, so dig them out from the back of the cupboard. If you feel like a bit of Merchant-Ivory film-glamour, then find a table-cloth as well.

Make Earl Grey or Darjeeling tea in a teapot. Put all the food on plates and let everyone help themselves.

HATTIE ELLIS

Shopping List

Fruit	Dairy
1 lemon	30g (1oz) cream cheese
1/2 cucumber	milk for tea
500g (1lb 2oz) strawberries	30g (1oz) butter
4 peaches	
Store cupboard	Fish
75g (3oz) caster sugar	100g (4oz) cooked prawns
2tbs caster sugar	
1tsp ground cinnamon	Bakery
Earl grey or Darjeeling tea	300g (1lb) madeira cake
	12 thin slices white bread

"Virtually the perfect summer book. No deck-chair will be complete without it" — *Independent*

LYNNE TRUSS
Tennyson's Gift

"An enormously entertaining novel... a fast-moving farce which allows her sideswipes at the foibles of the famous" — *Sunday Telegraph*

"A comic novel of subtle disjunction... a richly entertaining book, and at times a very moving one" — *The Times*

"A rollicking read. It is mischievous, light-hearted and fun" — *Literary Review*

"Wildly witty" — *Daily Mail*

THE TIMES

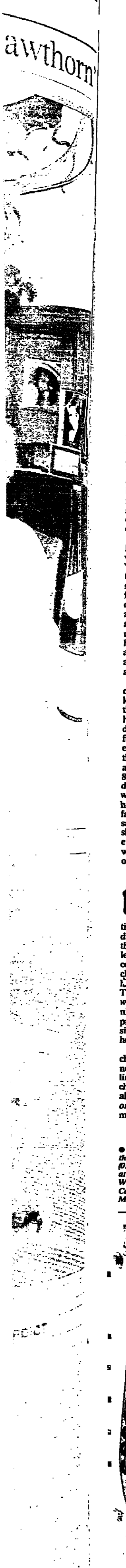
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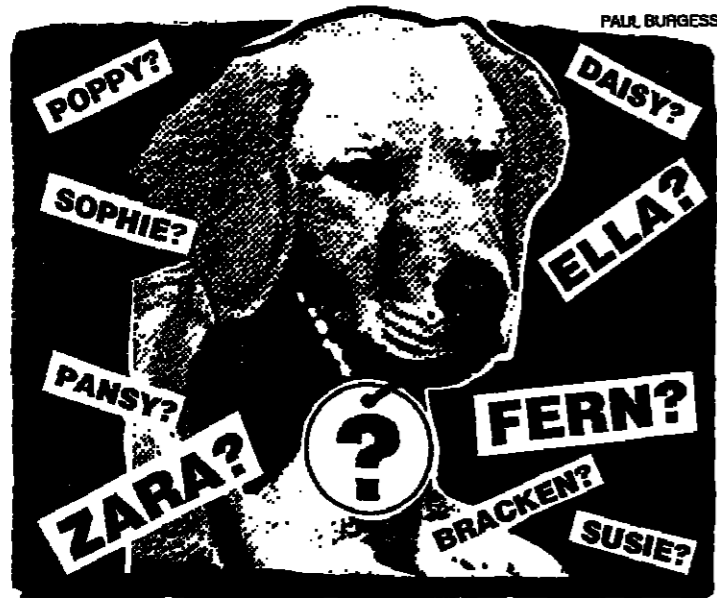
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A new puppy by any other name

Choosing what to call your pet can be hard work — and likely to cause a heated family debate or offend your best friends



So Puppy it is... at least until we can think of something better, if not more suitable. My parents are about to acquire a Labrador retriever bitch puppy and the entire family is embroiled in the great naming debate — and the unexpected reasons why our particular choices just won't do.

The rules are: the name must suit the large and dignified dog she will surely be, and each of the seven owners' somewhat eccentric requirements. Bearing in mind that four of the potential owners are boys with definite ideas on the subject, the battle will not be easily won by the others.

Lesson number one: naming a dog after a person, even inadvertently, isn't the done thing: it will not be taken as a compliment. So my mother's first choices, Sophie and Zara, had to be ruled out after I reminded her that these are the names of two of my best friends, who are sisters. Along with their brother, Toby, they are already convinced that their parents named the three of them after dogs.

So what about Emma, my mother said. No, she's another friend. Fortunately a male point of view was offered here: Emma would make her sound too much like a girl, said my father.

After moving away from the names of my friends, my mother progressed swiftly to a woodland theme. With a penchant for the weird at the best of times, she plumped for Fern. Or Bracken. Worse still, Pansy. These were soon dismissed by my brothers as too girly, and too embarrassing to call across a crowded beach. As were, thankfully, Poppy, Daisy and Susie. These are names for little dogs, yappy dogs, not like our Puppy. So it had to be a name a man can shout in public, in front of his friends, without compromising himself. No, Daisy wouldn't do.

Well, how about a sporting name — like Cantona? According to the Kennel Club, at least four dogs have registered that name, including Eric the highland terrier. But no, that wasn't right either. So, our choices went from bad to worse. Bess and Holly were thrown into the ring, quickly followed by Magnolia (well, she does have a cream coat). But my mother was confidently proclaimed that the matter would be decided in the same way as when naming a baby. We'll know what to call her, when we see her, she said.

AMANDA LOOSE

Despite their creepy-crawliness and cannibalistic lifestyle, tarantulas are growing in popularity as pets



To many people, this Mexican Red Knee tarantula is far from fearsome and makes an ideal pet; it takes up minimum space and costs little to feed. However, buying one will set you back £90-£150

To most of people, spiders are creatures that live in the garden shed or an undisturbed part of the house. It's a live-and-let-live sort of arrangement which breaks down when they trespass on our territory. Just when you thought it was safe to go into the bathroom, they come up through the plug-hole.

If you like hairy legs ...

classified as arachnids. There are at least 600 species of arachnid, says Dr Bustard, who believes that this number is just the tip of the iceberg, with many more species as yet undiscovered.

Ninety-five per cent of the spiders kept as pets in Britain are tarantulas. Because they are not dangerous, there is no special legislation governing their role as pets. (Certain more venomous arachnids, however, are subject to stringent regulations.)

The popularity of the tarantula is mainly due to its large size, says Dr Bustard, who specialises in the bigger varieties — not the sort of thing you would expect from a man who admits being phobic about spiders when growing up in Australia. As a boy he was told by his parents not to go near small spiders. The infamous black widow, one of the deadliest spiders in the world, is little bigger than the common British house spider. Tarantulas, by comparison, are pussy cats. But while you might happily

allow your cat to curl up in your lap, having your friendly tarantula about your person is a more risky business. Risky, that is, for the tarantula.

aggression is because most pet tarantulas have been bred in captivity. Tarantulas are cannibals and are far more likely to direct whatever aggression they have at another of their own kind.

Sky-high snack for anteaters

Feather Report

ON SULTRY days in late July and early August ants go on the spree. Thousands of winged males and females soar into the air to meet each other and mate. Afterward, the males die, while the females who have mated successfully come back to earth, shuffle off their wings and go underground to lay their eggs.

But their merrymaking is often rudely interrupted. The other day I saw a flock of black-headed gulls climbing and twisting about in the sky in a most ungainly way. There were also many starlings zooming and gliding among them. All of them had abandoned their normal way of life to feast on one of these swarms of flying ants, and were doing it very successfully.

Birds on the ground also feed on the winged ants as they come out of their nests, and when they fall later back to earth. House sparrows and pied wagtails are quite adept at leaping into the air and catching an insect flying near them.

MANY species, in fact, do a bit of aerial catching when winged insects are abundant. I have seen bullfinches and chaffinches hover or flutter over a branch to get them, and in spring especially, when the first flies appear, willow warblers and chiffchaffs are always leaping up among the young leaves in pursuit of them.

I also saw a few house martins joining in the chase of the flying ants. Swallows generally hunt closer to the ground; however, I expect some came swooping along where the ants were taking off.

But it was too late for the swifts to enjoy the bonanza. They have had a disastrously rainy summer, which made it difficult for them to find enough aerial plankton to feed their young, and in many nests all the chicks died. The parents have given up, and migrated back to sunny Africa.

DERWENT MAY
● What's about: *Birders* — watch out for young swallows and house martins gathering with adults on telephone wires. *Twitchers* — black-winged pratincole at Monksie Country Park, Angus; little bittern at Fleet Pond, Hampshire. Details from *Birdline*, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.



A feast for black-headed gulls

The food to make a cat grin

What is the best food for cats? There are raw meat advocates, chicken enthusiasts, and indulgent owners believing their cat is unique because it will eat only liver, salmon, lights, or best steak. They justify pandering to these feline whims because meat and fish are "natural" foods.

A Vet Writes...
contains everything a cat needs. When your cat comes home with a pigeon, rabbit or mouse, and dismembers it on the kitchen floor, that's natural. It's messy but such mixed prey provides a perfect diet. So does good quality proprietary cat food, canned or dry, from one of the "big name" manufacturers. And this man-made mixture won't pass on disease. Cats get tapeworms

by eating mice. They catch, and transmit, toxoplasma when raw rat and vole are included in the *plat du jour*.

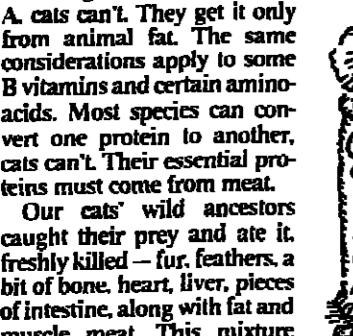
If your cat enjoys a piece of liver, raw cod or steamed Dover sole occasionally, it won't harm it. But living on liver alone can cause severe spinal trouble resulting from a deficiency of calcium and phosphorus and an excess of vitamin A — yes, too much

can be as bad as too little. A dish of raw fish every day, and nothing else, leads to Chastek paralysis — a thiamin deficiency.

Dogged determination
INCLUDED in the Spillers' ten-day Festival of Working Dogs starting today and running until Monday, August 26 at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex, are sheepdog and gundog trials, obedience training and dog racing with greyhounds, whippets, lurchers, terriers and the barkless basenjis. For owners who keep themselves as fit as their pets there is the biathlon — an obstacle course which involves you and your dog clambering, crawling, jumping, running and coping with wet and muddy terrain. Information from freephone 0800 738 2273.

PET NEWS
his outlay by selling the offspring at about £2,000 each, according to Andrew MacKinnon, writing on "Why Are Koi So Special?" in this month's *Pet Business News*.

Just joking
EXPECT a rash of cute pet books hitting the shelves well before Christmas. Coming soon: *The Awfully Good Cat* by David Jacobs and illustrator Trevor Dunton (Metro, £4.99). Here is a sample:
How do you describe a cat doing nothing in particular?
Answer: Puss-footing around.
What describes a cat in a panic?
Answer: A cat flap.



JAMES ALLCOCK

Prize carp
PETE WATERMAN, the pop producer, keeps koi carp at his home in Cheshire in an area of water about the size of four Olympic swimming pools. Not long ago he added to his collection with a prize specimen bought in Japan for £100,000. His ambition is to breed from this fish, and he may manage to recoup at least some of

Sound idea
CAN YOU name all the birds in your garden by their song only? *Garden Bird Sounds*, on cassette or CD, helps you do this, covering 70

Root cause
MORE THAN 85 per cent of dogs over four years old have periodontal disease, the most common cause of tooth-loss and bad breath, says Kelly Gardner in *Gamekeeper & Sporting Dog*. A booklet, *Dog Owners' Guide to Proper Dental Care*, costs £1.25 from Mailsales, PO Box 15, Waterlooville, Hampshire: PO7 6BQ.

Hot stuff
I AM indebted for the following to Stringer's Last Word, a jolly weekly column by Roy Stringer in *Cage & Aviary Birds*. He related the tale of a pigeon that set fire to a tree when it tried to line its nest with a burning cigarette end, and reported on research from Edinburgh University showing that horses that travel to races facing backwards perform better than those facing forwards. "Should we try the same experiment with our birds going to shows?" he asks.

JACK CROSSLEY

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Raking the pa... (Vertical text on the far right edge of the page)

GARDENING

Raking up the past

A little detective work could unearth an old Victorian garden, says Stephen Anderton

Gardens do not have to run to acres to have historic bones. Lurking beneath the shrubberies of many a town or country garden can be features or plants of Victorian origin. Once recognised, they may well be worth preserving or developing.

One thinks of the life of a shrub as being 30-40 years at best. But many will last 100 years given sufficient rejuvenative gardening. More often than not, however, it is human hands, not old age, that finishes them off. We get weary of seeing tired old shrubs and prefer to start again rather than go in for pruning and rejuvenation. There is nothing wrong with that. It is the history of all fashion and the last craze is always more despised than something older still, of which we have no personal experience.

Occasionally, something particularly tough escapes both the spade and old age, and lingers quietly, a testament to a garden's origins, a little bit of Capability Smith or Jones. Look out for old trees of box, particularly at the edge of a shrubbery rather than the back. They may be a remnant of what was once an edging. Box is slow to develop heavy wood and if you find trunks of 4in thick or more you are dealing with plants of a considerable age.

Look out for the three Ls - spotted laurel, cherry laurel and Portugal laurel. Even trunks of Portugal laurel a foot across do not mean Victorian origin; they can make that size in 60-70 years. On the other hand, all three laurels seed freely and the presence of many may suggest a previous Victorian shrubbery of root-resistant evergreens. Sometimes such plants will have layered themselves or fallen over, so look out for circular groups of the same plant with a stump at the centre.

The three laurels and rhododendrons were a staple of Victorian gardens, easy to grow, evergreen and with plenty of fruit and flower. Their indestructibility has allowed them to



Old iron rollers often survive

outlast many of the other evergreens planted alongside them. If you want to revive an evergreen shrubbery there is no need to stick solely with the survivors. Add some of the less persistent favourites, such as *Osmanthus decorus* for its sweetly-scented flowers, and *Mahonia aquifolium* and *Sarcococca* as a suckering edging. Golden yew and holly will also live things up, as will a rambling rose here and there.

Regular coppicing can lengthen the life of a tree or shrub by many times its usual span. Small-leaved limes can live for 1,200 years and philadelphus and deutzia - garden shrubs which you would expect to last 30-40 years - can last 100. Look for the woody, stooled bases. There may still be forgotten varieties hanging on in older gardens. Even herbaceous plants can linger a long time. Paeonies can last for generations.

Some of the woodier evergreen members of the lily family, such as *Ruscus aculeatus* (butcher's broom) and its relative *R. hypoglossum*, can sucker away in grim root-ridden



The rhododendron was a Victorian favourite. Its hardiness has made it outlast many other evergreens

shade almost forever - or at least until the trees die and conditions allow more rampant sun-loving species to smother them.

The hardware of Victorian and Edwardian gardens lingers more obviously. There are, for example, the rope-tile edgings in dark brown or grey glazed terracotta used to contain gravel or cinder paths. These are now being manufactured again and so the theme can be redeveloped around a garden. Iron garden rollers linger if only because they are too heavy to dispose of.

Victorian houses are often the greatest repositories of period hardware. How often do you see brick-stuccoed gateposts, and huge lime trees far too big for the house but now protected by urban legislation? And behind that, if all has not been cleared for car parking, mounded beds or shrubberies edged with rope tiles, or perhaps somewhere in the gravel or Tarmac a circular bed, which was filled with brightly coloured bedding 100 years ago? There may be "rockery" work, too. Not

necessarily chunks of real stone but these conglomerations of glass or coking slag, of which the Victorians were so fond. Perhaps, too, there may be remnants of coloured glass or white spar chips, once used as an

alternative or adjunct to bedding. None of this may be fit to save but it deserves investigation. And it is worth considering what kind of garden a house originally had, why it was chosen and how it worked with the house: formality with formality, or rustic with rustic. After that comes the pleasure of deciding how to incorporate those remnants into your new garden, if they deserve it.

Sometimes the most satisfying gardens are those where you can see the gradual development over time, where Smith has adapted Jones as Jones previously adapted Brown. Old bones may not be exciting in themselves but the bones of an old garden can be a good opportunity on which to develop a new garden after your own taste.

For further information, write to the Association of County Garden Trusts, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP, enclosing an SAE, or contact the Garden History Society (0171 608 2409) at the same address.

Gardens to visit, page 13

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q Can you recommend an adhesive or some other means of repairing terracotta pots? - R. Trewellard, Penzance, Cornwall.

A There are so many good pots available that I would hesitate to repair old ones: they are never reliable again. Traditionally, the broken pieces were drilled and wired together. The best adhesives are the epoxy resin type, such as are used for repairing china. The adhesive will not last forever, because the pot is porous and water or salts will loosen the grip but it should last a few years. A combination of adhesive and wires will guard against sudden disintegration and further breakage.

Q I have several *Skimmia japonica* 'Nymans' and 'Rebella' which are 11 years old and doing well but getting too big - about 40in high and 48in across. The gardening books say no pruning is needed. Can I reduce them and, if so, how and when? - Mrs R. Rayment, Twickenham, Middlesex.

A *Skimmia* are a tough, evergreen berrying bush, but slow growing and easily shocked. They do not sprout so easily from old wood. If you can, nibble back and thin your bushes to the required size, cutting in spring just before growth starts. If you have to be more drastic, do it in stages, taking down a third of the branches each year, so that

the bushes are never leafless for long and thus seriously weakened.

Q My soil is sandy and, despite adding plenty of compost and watering during drought, roses do not do well. My favourite rose, 'Sutter's Gold', a deep gold flushed with pink, has survived, but I lost the others. Where can I buy more 'Sutter's Gold'? - Mrs E.W. Bathgate, Cupar, Fife.

A 'Sutter's Gold' is an upright growing hybrid tea rose and this group do not do well on sand. You might have more success on sand with rugosa roses, or hybrid musks, or Scotch briar roses (varieties of *R. pimpinellifolia*). You can buy 'Sutter's Gold' from rose specialists such as David Austin (£25 minimum charge) or Peter Beales (no minimum charge), or from smaller firms such as Burrows Roses, Meadow Croft, Spondon Road, Dale Abbey, Derby DE7 4PQ (£3 minimum charge) and Gandy's Roses, North Kilworth, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 6HZ.

Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9YN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Trim faded flower stalks of lavender bushes and hedges and pinch out subsequent shoots to encourage bushiness. Avoid cutting hard into old shoots, because they are reluctant to sprout again.
- Sow winter spinach in rows 4in apart, for cropping from November.
- Set new strawberry plants in soil enriched with manure or old compost.
- Liquid feed late-flowering clematis every two weeks and water weekly in hot weather.

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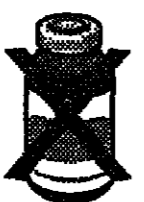
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Golfing News by Mike Henson

New Driving Iron Challenges Woods on Distance. Sets a World Record.

Patented Surface Automatically Corrects Hooks and Slices. Trouble with Woods? These Are for You.

LONDON, England - The same small Kent company that created a golf ball that flies too far has introduced a new driving iron that hits too far, way too far if you happen to sell woods. Mike Smith, a PGA Pro, recently set a World Record off the grass with the company's 17" driving iron. His shot was 335 yards. This is a troublesome distance for wood manufacturers, but that

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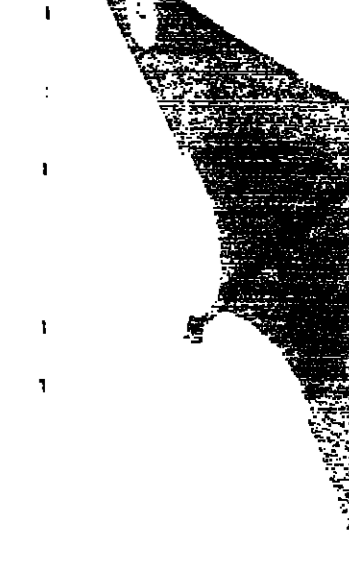
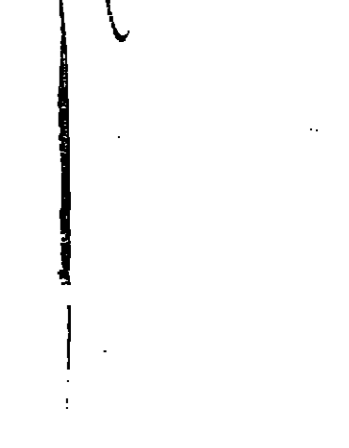
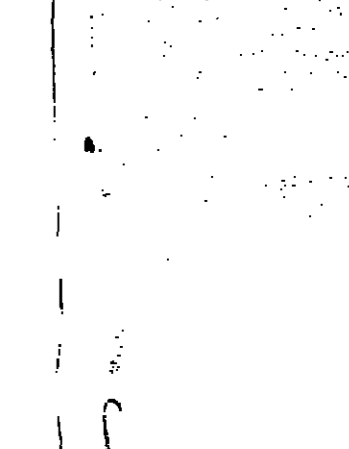
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Kite-flying is no longer child's play. Thanks to the latest stunt models it has taken off as a family pastime

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Children adore it and parents can hardly resist it either: not only does the air and exercise tame hyperactive youngsters, but it can also satisfy a teenager's need to look "cool".

Kite-flying can be peaceful and relaxing, or an adrenalin-soaked, physically exhausting affair. Unlike tennis, it needn't depend on strength and stamina, so father is not automatically star of the show.

Far from being child's play, kite-flying has become mainly an adult pastime, largely because of the advent of power-kiting. Big power kites have been around since the early 1980s but it's only now, in line with the fashion for adventure/exhilaration sports, that power-kiting has taken off in mass-market terms. (Power-kiting means forward propulsion using a kite, from roller-blading to kite-skiing on water or snow.)

Kite-bugging, using an agile three-wheeler steered with the feet for example, is a popular pastime in London on Blackheath or Hackney Marshes. It's cheaper and requires less room than sand-yachting.

For serious daredevils there's the dangerous kite-jumping: the kite catapults you up off the ground and you then glide or plummet back down. The world record jump is a nail-biting 32 metres (about 105ft) long at a height of about 12 metres (about 40ft).

Kites, invented in China about 3,000 years ago, have progressed further since the Kite Store opened in Covent Garden, London, in 1976. Gone are the days of the canvas and wood box kites. By the early 1990s steerable, acrobatic, two-line stunt kites were outselling their static, non-maneuvrable single-line counterparts by around 4:1.

Kites have turned high-tech, borrowing from other sports, such as sailing (adopting lightweight, non-porous ripstop nylon sails), archery (ultra-light carbon fibre frames) and fishing (high-performance Dyneema and Spectra

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lines, derived from fishing twine). Today, even the most basic diamond-shaped kite, such as the best-selling Worlds Apart Blazer, comes with a ripstop nylon sail. It's a popular knockabout model for beginners, even if it looks old-fashioned compared with the Aircraft Gyro. The latter is a small version of the sport kites — those hang-glider lookalikes (also called delta-wing or swept-wing) that swooped on

to the scene in the early 1990s. At this kind of price you can get good quality for your money; the frame is of lightweight carbon fibre (today's preferred material, as opposed to the Blazer's fibreglass) and it's fast.

The Worlds Apart Vortex is a slightly larger version with rugged fixtures and attractive panelling. It has a broad wind range which means durability, high performance and crisp handling. It's also relatively forgiving and would suit lesser-skilled intermediates.

The Griffin by Martin Lester is a full-size, swept-wing sport stunt kite aimed at beginners and intermediates. It has a 5-20 mph wind range and is good for learning precision flying and some tricks. "The materials haven't moved on much in the last couple of years. You're still looking at ripstop nylon on carbon fibre," says Andy King, co-owner of the Kite Store. "The real development lies in the public's more sophisticated tastes. They want power and speed, finesse and tricks."

In the same vein as power kites come the bigger sport kites, such as the Powerhouse Blade, which are alarmingly powerful. "A real head-banger's kite for those who want power, speed, exhilaration and life in the fast lane," Mr King says. Like a windsurfer, it has a highly engineered, battened sail shape, which makes maximum use of the wind and enables very fast turns. The Jam Session by HQ Invento is

flavour of the moment for finesse flying, another trend in the market. This involves stalling the kite and then doing tricks, such as axels (flipping the whole kite around). Just as people see the tennis stars at Wimbledon and want to copy their techniques, so kite-flying enthusiasts want to learn all the flips, cascades, under axels and over axels they've seen demonstrated at kite festivals.

The Flexifoil Super Ten is an adults-only power kite. Mr King irreverently refers to it as "the flying duver", but sells about 200 a year of them at £170 each. He says: "It doesn't matter that these large power kites have been around since the early 1980s, it's what people are doing with them that has made them so fashionable today."

Finally, for the ultimate in control (or the ultimate in confusion for two-line fliers who will have to un-learn two-line techniques) there are the four-line kites which can fly both backwards and forwards, stop dead or do propeller spins. The four-line Revolution 1.5 imported from Santiago, California, does not come cheap, but is excellent to learn on: not too fast, not too slow, and it has the broadest wind range around.

SOPHIE CHAMIER

LIVE THE HIGH LIFE

■ Kite Society of Great Britain, PO Box 2274, Great Horkeley, Colchester, Essex CO6 4AY. Annual membership — £9, families £10. OAPs £7 — includes four copies of *The Kiteflier* magazine. The handbook lists kite specialist shops indicating those offering discounts of 5-10 per cent to members.

■ Chris Matheson, 172 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0JL (0171-923 0755). Private tuition costs £20 per hour; group tuition for five-ten people, £10 per person for a 2½-hour session. Mr Matheson is a kite designer who competed for three years at national level. His classes are for those with some knowledge of kite flying.

■ Richard Marsh of Trade-wind Kites in Reading (01734 568849) hosts the 1996 Phoenix Master Class series with Andrew Lomas. Each one-hour session costs £12.50 per flier, with a maximum of three pupils per instructor. All levels of flier are catered for.

■ Dodd Gross teaching videos are international best-sellers. *Flight School 2* teaches trick flying and *Flight School 3* advanced trick-flying (both £11.99). Widely available in kite shops. (Call 01225 466661 for local stockists.)

■ Natural Heights (0181-682 8990) runs kiting weeks in the conservation area of Portugal's Algarve from August 29, September 5, 12, 19

and October 3. The cost is a supplement of £50 per adult or £40 for under-16s, added to the basic self-catering holiday price of between £300-£350 per person (including flights, car hire, accommodation and insurance). The week includes three half-day guided kiting sessions in groups of up to ten. Use of equipment is free during lessons. Individual two-hour lessons in specialist areas, such as power kiting, costs £10.

■ Major kite festivals: August 24-26, Portsmouth (contact Kite Society above); August 31-September 1, Canterbury (contact A. Sage, 01227 462786); September 7-8, Bristol (contact Avril Baker, 0117 9772002).

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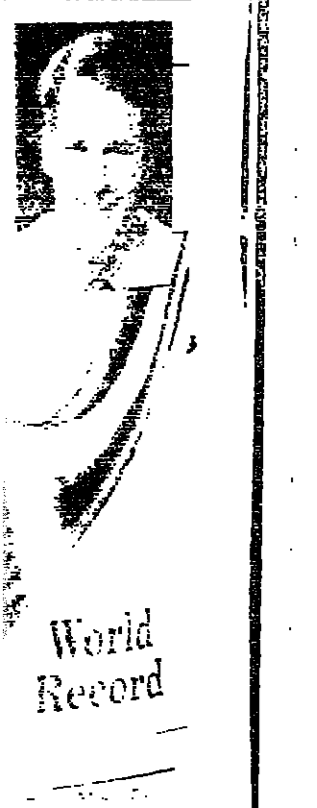
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Le Creuset — Blue		£49.95
Le Creuset — Green		£49.95

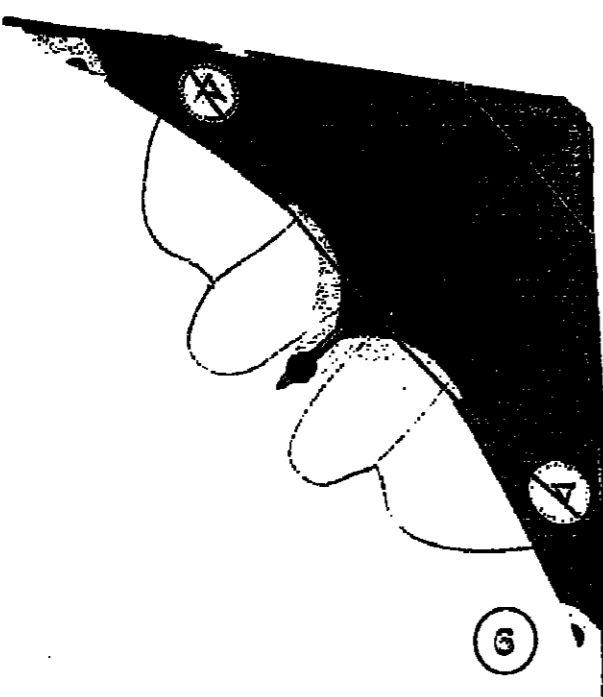
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WEEKEND SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

PROPERTY

9

From holiday to second home

The weekend cottage can often become a useful source of income

Even on holiday, the British are attracted to "For Sale" signs. Estate agents' windows in pretty market towns or sunny seaside resorts throughout Britain possess the same appeal. For the idea of owning a holiday cottage is at its most appealing when families discover the near-perfect retreat from home and work.

Although far less daunting than moving house, buying a holiday home involves doing your homework. Vital considerations include choosing the right location at the right distance from home, finding the best way to finance the purchase, assessing whether the property can raise an income through letting and deciding whether you are going to become bored with holidays in the same place.

Ian and Pat Coupar, a chemical engineer and a teacher respectively, debated all these issues when they spotted a cottage for sale in Norfolk during a holiday.

They searched libraries and bookshops for advice and guidance on the pros and cons and, although there were books on buying abroad, there was nothing on a second UK home, Mr Coupar says.

They went ahead anyway, and have now written their own guide to the process. Chapter headings — on why buy, location, style and type, searching and financing, possible income, budget and management, and risks — cover the essential areas.

"One thing we hadn't really considered was how we were going to furnish the place," says Mr Coupar, the father of three teenage sons. "But in the end we were lucky because the house was already a holiday cottage and its owner asked if we were interested in buying the contents."

So for an extra £800, their three-bedroom cottage came fully furnished with everything from books and records to games and even an artificial Christmas tree.

That was two years ago and since



Pat and Ian Coupar outside their holiday cottage in Norfolk: "Always do your homework and take professional advice"

then the Coupars, who live two hours away in Bromley, Kent, and their friends and relatives have enjoyed dozens of weekends and longer holidays in the cottage.

Most holiday-home owners believe that a two-hour drive makes a weekend visit easy and a day-trip for inspection feasible. A much longer journey makes regular journeys more difficult and more expensive.

"Provided you do your homework and take professional advice, most of the risks can be limited or eradicated. We are glad we decided to follow our initial instincts and take the plunge," Mr Coupar says.

Buying a holiday home is often completed with the help of a second mortgage, more freely available now than some years ago. Around 50 building societies and other lenders offer mortgages for second homes, but many charge a higher interest rate if the property is let for commercial gain. Halifax Mortgage Services, a subsidiary of the Halifax building society, offers a Second Asset Mortgage at the same base rate as other home loans. Management consultant

Andy Macey found the mortgage ideal to finance his purchase of a three-bedroom period cottage in Westerham, Kent, half an hour from his home. He and his wife spend almost every weekend there.

"We bought a smaller place in the

Country Cottages (ECC) already promotes 2,800 properties in the UK — from a simple cottage in Devon without electricity to an eight-bedroom manor house with indoor swimming pool. Tim Fullam, ECC's marketing director, says Dorset, Sussex, Hampshire, Wiltshire and south Cornwall are the most popular in the summer; in the winter it is the Cotswolds.

ECC, which produces an owners' guide setting out the required standard of accommodation, charges commission of 21.5 per cent of the gross rentals achieved, plus VAT.

Owning and letting a holiday property can be a tax-efficient investment, if the arrangements conform to the qualifying rules. The property must be in the UK, must be furnished, and the lettings must be made on a commercial basis, for a specified minimum period each year. It must be available to the public for letting for 140 days in a year, and it must achieve a minimum net of 70 days. If those conditions are met, any profits are regarded as earned income and interest on money bor-

rowed to buy the property can be set against income for tax purposes.

Chartered accountants Binder Hamlyn publish a *Live and Let* guide to taxation of both residential and holiday letting, but make it clear that it is a general guide which cannot take the place of specific professional advice.

One issue that cannot be solved by professionals is whether the novelty factor of the house and surrounding area will wear off. It is one thing to spend two weeks in an idyllic spot, but another for it to be a second home.

For Harold Smith, a semi-retired builders' merchant, the opposite is true. Four years ago he bought a derelict property on Ireland's Cork coast, which has become a retreat for him and his wife.

"I had spent a great deal of time in Ireland, on holiday and on business, before I saw this place," says Mr Smith, who lives in Lancashire. "It was affordable and in an unbeatable position." But it took almost two years before the rebuilt three-bedroom property was habitable.

"Having work done at a distance can be a problem," he says. The couple now either fly to Cork for a short stay or use the Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire ferry to take the car for a longer holiday. "It does mean we rarely go anywhere else but we love it there. Ireland is now an extension of our lives."

Next week: homes on the coast

Period stone-built farmhouses are the most popular, usually with a minimum of an acre of land," estate agent Charles McCarthy, based in County Cork, says. "A good quality house will cost between £70,000 and £150,000 and the nearer the coast it is, the more expensive it will be."

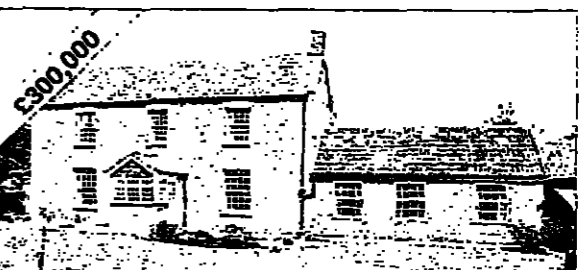
LYNNE GREENWOOD
 ● A Guide to Buying a Holiday Cottage in England by Pat and Ian Coupar, from *Holiday Cottages*, PO Box 42, Finglesham, Kent BR2 7RU (ES - 75p p/cpl).
 ● Live and Let taxation guide from *Binder Hamlyn*, 20 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BH (071-466 6504).
 ● English Country Cottages, Grove Farm Barns, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9NB (01528 864292).
 ● In The Six, national property newspaper specialising in country homes, at Slaggyford, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 7NW (01434 381404).

FOR SALE

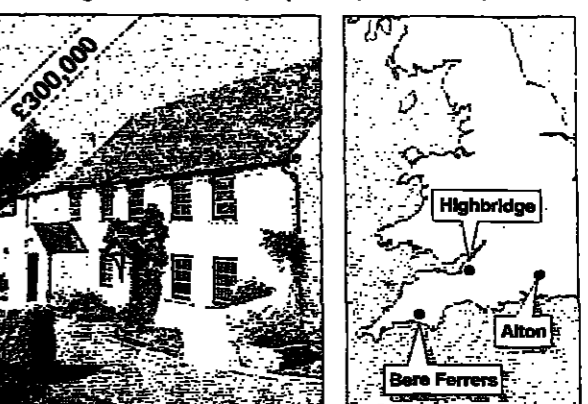
ABOUT £325,000



HAMPSHIRE
 Plestor House, High Street, Seabrook, Alton. Grade II listed 18th-century village house in a walled garden. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom and scullery. Outbuildings and garaging. About £345,000 (Hamptons, 01420 88868).



DEVON
 Hallowell Farm, Bere Ferrers. A 16th-century farmhouse in 30 acres of gardens and farmland, with 500 metres of water frontage. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), two reception rooms, kitchen and utility. Self-contained two-bedroom cottage and two detached timber bungalows. About £300,000 (Fulford, 01392 412007).



SOMERSET
 Elm Tree Farm, Mark, Highbridge. A 19th-century house in 19 acres, with 12 loose boxes, feed room/tack room, horsebox garage, Dutch barn, raised outdoor school and five paddocks. Five bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, sitting room, dining room, two kitchens. Self-contained one-bedroom annexe. About £300,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01392 215631).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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STRATFORD ROAD
 Kensington W8

In a pretty street, a spacious south facing Victorian house on four floors requiring refurbishment.

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 5 reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, utility area, cloakroom, attractive garden.

Freehold
 £645,000

KENSINGTON:
 0171-727 0705

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BARNES, SW13 Freehold £825,000

An imposing Georgian house with an adjoining coach house, a delightful, established, west facing garden and carriage drive (shared). Main house: 6 beds, 2 baths, 3 recep, kit/utility, 34m (113ft) garden, garage, driveway. Coach house: 3 beds, bath, shower rm, 2 recep, kitchen.

FULHAM: 0171-731 4223

CLAPHAM COMMON
 NORTHSIDE, SW4

With lovely views over the Common, an elegant listed house, beautifully modernised, near an interesting selection of shops and restaurants plus underground station.

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 receptions, kitchen, flat with 2 rooms, kitchen, shower rm. Large garden and garage.

Freehold

BATTERSEA:
 0171-228 0174

BERKSHIRE - Near Kintbury Price Guide: £250,000

With an immaculate gdn, a charming cottage in a quiet lane amidst rolling farmland about 2 miles from this popular village & 8 miles from Newbury. 3 beds, 2 baths, 2 recep, kit, barn.

NEWBURY: 01635 523225

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 North London 0171-722 3336 Wimbledon & Surrey 0181-946 9447
 South of the M4 01256 398004 North of the M4 01865 311522

HAMPSHIRE - Milford on Sea Price Guide: £295,000

A handsome Grade II listed 18th century village house in need of modernisation. 5 beds, 2 baths, 3 recep, study, kit, fine recep hall, 2 attic rms, dble garage, workshop, games rm, gdn.

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

OXFORDSHIRE
 Blethingdon

A detached stone cottage situated in this popular North Oxfordshire village.

2 bedrooms, bathroom, large sitting room with dining area, kitchen, cloakroom, garage and garden.

Price Guide:
 £135,000

OXFORD:
 01865 311522

OXFORD - Harcourt Hill For sale or to let

With uninterrupted views over the Oxford Spines and Chilterns, a well-appointed house with paddocks. 5 beds, 2 dressing rms, 4 baths, shower rm, 4 recep, kit, b'fast rm, domestic offices, gymnasium/office. S/c 1 bed annexe, dble garage, gardens. Grounds: About 4.45 ha (11 acres).

OXFORD: 01865 311522

HAMPSHIRE
 Bartley, Near Lyndhurst

A refurbished period farmhouse with outbuildings, garden and paddocks of about 0.8 ha (2 acres).

3 beds, bath, recep hall/family rm, 2 recep, b'fast rm, kit, double garage, stabling, manège. Potential to extend subject to renewing previous consent.

LYMINGTON:
 01590 677233

Samuel Beckett with a dash of Buster Keaton

LIKE Somerset Maugham's his stories are not, but James Kelman's 1987 collection, Greyhound for Breakfast...

comparison, here is Samuel Beckett laced with Buster Keaton. I cannot muster as much enthusiasm for Kelman's friend and protégée, Agnes Owens...

Giles Gordon reviews short stories, from witty working-class observations to a Woman's Hour anniversary anthology

Liz Heron's first collection, A Red River (Virago, £6.99, ISBN 1 85381 869 0), at its best recalls Rose Tremain's marvellous 'historical' stories...

Hot Chicken Wings by Jyl Lynn Felman (Virago, £6.99, ISBN 1 86049 010 7) is winsomely embarrassing, and not only for the numerous, gushing acknowledgements...

me a Jewish lesbian writer'. If she is happy being Jewish and lesbian, then I am happy for her...

by women celebrating change in women's lives. The subjects embraced including orgasm, death, puberty and separation...

edited and introduced by Di Speirs, the programme's serials producer. Each of the 17 stories here...



Peter Millar on Hammond Innes

Phew! what a scorcher

AT THE AGE of 83, the most amazing thing about Hammond Innes is that he is still turning them out. Delta Connection is his thirtieth work of fiction...

DELTA CONNECTION By Hammond Innes Macmillan £15.99 ISBN 0 333 63290 7

occurs to him that in the circumstances of the time — when Securitate men overnight became fair game for anyone with a grudge and a gun — he would have done just as well to stay put...



Innes: cliff-hanger

belching black smoke hurtling between sheer cliff walls through a snowy mountain pass, just about sums it all up. This is rip-snorting adventure yarn stuff in the best Boys' Own tradition...



Marlene Dietrich photographed by Clarence Sinclair Bull with her cabochon emerald and diamond bracelets, from Hollywood Jewels by Penny Proddow, Debra Healy and Marion Fasel (Abradale Press, £17.95, ISBN 0 8109 8145 9)

The meaning of life

THREE AIDS widowers dine together every Saturday night in southern California. Apart from their bereavement they have nothing in common...

AFTERLIFE By Paul Monette Abacus £6.99 ISBN 0 349 10772 6

the reservoirs with Aids-infected blood. Steven, almost beyond tears, is poised for a return to work and perhaps to ordinary life...

All of them are HIV-positive. Into Steven's life comes Mark Inman, an important television executive who was once Victor's lover...

Afterlife is about their struggle to find some meaning in a world where they and all their gay friends are dying or dead...



Monette: frank emotions

or trying to love — or even watering the garden — when you have only a year or two to live? Gradually each of the three widowers finds a way — a quite different way — of

dealing with the hopelessness. Towards the end of the novel, when Steven and Mark are in the cemetery after yet another funeral, Mark, thinking about a possible Aids-less future, asks: 'Will anyone understand what it was like?'...

KATE HATFIELD

So good it's criminal

I CANNOT understand why James Lee Burke has not attracted the British readership his excellence deserves. He is as good as Elmore Leonard and Charles Willeford...

CADILLAC JUKEBOX By James Lee Burke Orion £15.99 ISBN 0 7528 0452 9

the 1960s, suddenly starting proclaiming the innocence he never claimed at his trial. His attempts to convince Robicheaux are linked somehow with the campaign for State governor of local sleazebag Buford LaRose...

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MARCEL BERLINS

TEENAGE FICTION

Lessons in the playground

TEMPING fans from the unstoppable popular Point Horror series this summer are a welcome range of well-written thrillers. Halfway between farce and drama, Egghead by Steve May (Mammoth, £3.99, ISBN 0 749 7282 2) combines an atmosphere of creeping horror with the dynamics of the playground...

As Billy's fears increase, tension rises and the gang of 13 and 14-year-olds pick on him in a way that is worse than punching: 'Every time they see you, they nudge each other and pretend they're going to laugh, but they're holding it in with their hands over their faces, and then, as soon as you move away...

they're howling with laughter behind your back.' May — familiar to me as a challenging radio dramatist — has written a book of depth and understanding which is also a cracking read...

MAUREEN OWEN

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Four dozen free-range mysteries

NOT MANY of the people who love Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca know that she also wrote the short story on which Hitchcock's terrifying film The Birds was based...

BOOK NEWS

writer of mystery and sometimes terror, rather than as a romantic novelist.' Now she may be lucky. The TLS is famous for its unusual correspondence, and the latest controversy is about when soldiers first marched in step. Some authors believe

that it was in about 1600, but John Keegan maintains in a letter that it was not until about 1750. Earlier attempts were abandoned because, says Keegan, marching in step 'had to wait for engineered roads and purpose-built parade grounds'. No more shuffling after that.

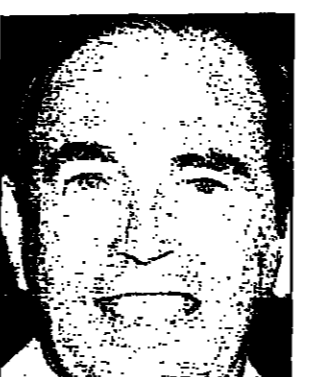
Wine, women and surgery

THE DONOR By Christiana Barnard Michael Joseph, £15.99 ISBN 0 7181 4152 0

THERE is something awfully familiar about Dr Rodney Barnes, the main character in Christiana Barnard's novel. For a start, he is an internationally famous South African heart-transplant surgeon — and there are not too many of those that spring to mind...

THE ACCOMPLICE By Elizabeth Ironside Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99 ISBN 0 340 64036 7

ZITA DAUNTSEY enjoys a pleasantly uneventful existence working as a solicitor in a small town in the Home Counties. Then the skeleton of a child is unearthed in the garden of a house owned by one of her clients — and suddenly the certainties of Zita's life are undermined...



Barnard: medical fiction

secrets. For Jean, it transpires, was formerly Yevgenia Chornoroukaya — forced to leave Russia in the 1950s to escape the Stalinist purges. When Xenia, a young Russian girl, arrives at Jean's house, claiming to be a distant relative, Jean sees her chance of making amends. But Xenia has secrets of her own...

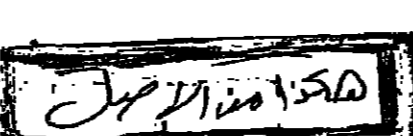
WHAT SHE WANTED By Nicky Singer Orion, £9.99 ISBN 0 7 280 491 X

SUZANNAH MCCALL is a successful barrister in her late thirties, whose private life, until the point the novel opens, has been restricted to a series of casual affairs and one more serious involvement with a married man. Then she meets Jen, an impoverished writer 12 years her junior, and finds out what it is like to be the object of a romantic fixation...

CHRISTINA KONING

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

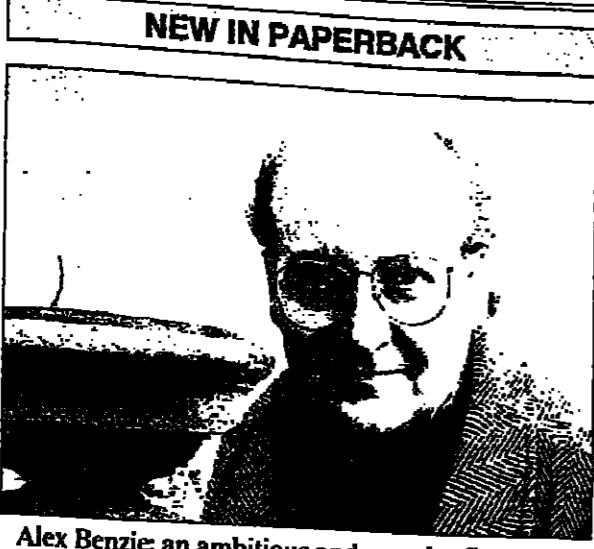
Table with columns for book title, author, price, and week number. Lists best-selling books in both hardback and paperback formats.



BOOKS

Elizabeth Buchan on Tim Waterstone's moving but disappointing new novel about four men

On the trail of Nazi gold



Alex Benzie: an ambitious and complex first novel

THE YEAR'S MIDNIGHT By Alex Benzie Penguin, £7.99 ISBN 0 14 125130 8

BY ANY reckoning, this great leviathan of a novel is an impressive achievement; for a first novel it is a remarkable one. Alex Benzie reveals his mastery as a storyteller and his narration of the individual stories of the inhabitants of a Scottish village resonates against the dilemmas of the human condition. Benzie begins his novel in the Scottish village of Aberlevin in the late 18th century, where womanising, plain-speaking Macpherson is hanged for a crime he did not commit. The angry villagers climb up the village clocktower and smash the clock. One hundred years

later a shy young watch-mender known as 'Watchie' Leckie is summoned to the village to repair the clock and rewind the cogs of time. As Watchie labours at fine-tuning the clock, the more nebulous forces of hypocrisy, bigotry and fear are at work in Aberlevin. They arrive in the mysteriously charismatic shape of the liar Jamie Warts; Jamie, with his conviction that he is pre-elected for salvation in the afterlife, is a creation from the dark tradition of James Hogg's Confessions of a Justified Sinner with its suggestion of supernatural forces at work behind human self-delusion. Don't be put off by the time-defying 600 page length of The Year's Midnight: it is a magnificent novel.



BLACK SEA The Birthplace of Civilisation and Barbarism By Neal Ascherson Vintage, £7.99 ISBN 0 09 959371 8

THIS dense, frequently fascinating history of the Black Sea, where migrating peoples have crossed paths for millennia, flows from the pen of the former Observer foreign correspondent (now columnist for The Independent on Sunday), Thinking about barbarism, civilisation and nationalism, he compares a mongrel-Tatar prince who donned Greek robes to 18th-century half-cosmopolitan Scots chieftains. Although it is sometimes rambling, the book mingles erudite accounts of the ancient world with the author's first-hand experience of the 1990s and the USSR in upheaval.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, MUMMY? By Mavis Nicholson Pimlico, £10 ISBN 0 71 267464 0

A RESISTANCE heroine, the future novelist Mary Wesley, a widow, a munitions worker, a barrage balloon operator, landgirls and a popular singer are among the gallery of women who reveal to Nicholson the enormous impact the Second World War had on their once ordinary lives. Each woman tells a tale of bravery and fear in a war which they had to help win. Despite the trials of the Blitz, rationing, and sad partings, Nicholson's women feel that the war allowed them opportunities and freedoms they had been denied.



THE NORMAL MAN By Susie Boyt Phoenix, £5.99 ISBN 1 85799 421 3

JANEY MARCH wants a normal man, someone she can bake steak and kidney pies for. After months of crash dieting and a roller coaster of disastrous relationships, an accident at a house-warming party brings down the whole house of cards and she relives her obsessions with men, her childhood, jam, and the death of her father Norman, ten years ago. But Janey also meets a man who reads Anna Karenina to her in hospital. A novel of pain but also of self-mocking humour and reconciliation, and of finding someone who likes jam as much as she does.

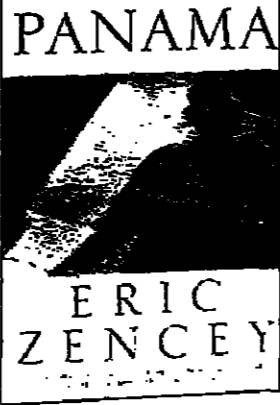
Contributors: Lucy Lethbridge, Kate Bassett, Adam Schwarzman, Alison Burns, Amanda Loose, Guy Walters

AMERICAN STUDIES By Mark Merlis Fourth Estate, £6.99 ISBN 1 857 02413 3

SIXTY-SOMETHING-year-old Reeve, bashed up by a hustler and recovering in hospital, meditates on what seems the parallel ruin of his college mentor Tom Slater, driven to suicide in the McCarthy era 40 years before. With his wry, compassionate humour the novel gets together a complex of themes: the brutalising conformity that cements American society; the futility in a culture of alienation of Slater's ideals of love; and not least the emergence and (non-) acceptance of the homosexual identity. An exceptional first novel.

LET'S DANCE By Frances Hegarty Penguin, £5.99 ISBN 1 14 025335 1

AS Frances Hegarty, Frances Fyfield frees herself from the crime-mystery format to explore dark sides of human nature that are not necessarily criminal. Here, she gives an uncomfortable portrait of a mixed-up family coping with Alzheimer's disease. As Serena Burley veers between obscene anger and irresponsible gaiety, her daughter Isabel has to find a way to care for her. A gang of nasty burglars provides external menace but the real subject is the destructive element within.



PANAMA By Eric Zency Sceptre, £5.99 ISBN 0 340 65722 7

THIS IS a fine first novel, and better than that, a remarkable one. Ask most history professors to write a thriller set within their favourite time and place and you will get an undisciplined textbook, whereas Eric Zency's mystery set within 1890s Paris is both gripping and educational. Unsurprisingly, the reluctant hero is an American historian too, Henry Adams, who is drawn into a seedy Paris, reminiscent of Poe, in which the Panama Canal scandal is being hatched. Adams's exploits will appeal to both lovers of mystery and academics; a distinction revealed to be very slight indeed.

AT THE moments when it pauses for breath, this novel is very good: honest, serious and ambitious.

In England, a quartet of Holocaust survivors are pursuing very different lives. Amos Bronowski, an academic, marries the shy and awkward Miranda, an English teacher at a posh London girls' school, and is compiling a report on the death camps, which he plans to publish. Courtesy of his wife, Lewis Cohen has infiltrated himself into the powerful Jewish establishment and is, supposedly, at the pinnacle of a successful law career. Yet, there are

A PASSAGE OF LIVES By Tim Waterstone Headline Review, £16.99 ISBN 0 7472 1581 2

questions about his probity. A widower, Gareth Edel focuses his energies on his bookshop and on his work as a secret agent for the World Jewish Council. Finally, the brilliant and irrevocably damaged Mariss Steiner is living in a hotel where he is free to construct his fantasies, some of which are dangerous. A terrible and common past provides a link, and the key, to the

psychology of the men who seek out or contrive situations which subtly reinforce a profound pessimism and guilt. They are also bound by a common interest in the fate of the millions stolen from the Jews by the Nazis, which are lying in secret Swiss bank accounts. Who is going to lay their hands on this wealth and for what purpose? Tim Waterstone unravels a complex story in which the scrupulous and sanctified are as questionable as the greedy and unscrupulous. He writes densely and thoughtfully and, sometimes, movingly — his portrait

of a mother agonising over her dying child is unbearable — and in his construction of Miranda he demonstrates an admirable grasp of the female soul. What mars his achievements is the choppy structure — 76 chapters in 312 pages — with the result that the plot and the narrative are thrown from pillar to post. All novels have an internal rhythm to which the reader unconsciously responds, and the best have an intrinsic harmony with the development of character, theme and language. In this respect, A Passage of Lives is disappointing.



Waterstone: honest



Home Life and Holidays, from The Cotswolds Life and Traditions by June Lewis, which explores facets of life in the Cotswold Hills seen through the eyes of local people (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99, ISBN 0 297 83293 X)

Guys behaving badly

CONFESSIONS OF AN IVY LEAGUE BOOKIE By Peter Alson Fourth Estate, £7.99 ISBN 1 85702 497 4

FAST going nowhere as a writer, little further in a long-distance romance, and broke, thirtysomething Harvard graduate Peter Alson reluctantly trades in his scruples for an illegal job as a Manhattan bookmaker. One Ivy League buddy-turned-bookie already drives a Saab convertible, complete with stylish broad in the passenger seat. So the risks look well worth a few sleepless nights wondering what a nice boy like him is doing in a job like this.

Anthony Holden puts money on a guaranteed success story

"Look who we got here," says Bob, the office wag, on Alson's arrival. "We got one guy, Spanky, who's a fat, smelly slob with a bad attitude. We got another, Michael, who's deeply depressed and doesn't know it. We got Monkey, a gangster who kills people. Bernie, a 50-year-old man who can't walk ten feet without stopping to catch his breath. And Pat. I don't even know what Pat's problem is because he's always so busy blaming it on everyone else. But hey, we're here with him."

But why, Alson keeps asking himself, is he now here with them? The answer is soon obvious to the reader of this racy, reckless memoir. The bookie's life is not just lucrative, it is fun. It is fun because it is dangerous. With the style and gusto of a 1990s Damon Runyan, Alson paints a vivid portrait of a shady New York demi-monde which he clearly enjoyed more than he cares to admit. His rogue's gallery of partners-in-crime steers straight out of a latter-day Guys and Dolls. He has a gambler's ear for sharp, witty dialogue, and a fanatic's zeal for the male bonding peculiar to men bent on risk. Whenever he leaves the office to chronicle his hopeless love life, not to mention his inner torment, the reader becomes a vicarious gambler, anxious to get back to the action. After his nightmare comes true, and the law intervenes, Alson returns via a hilarious jailhouse denouement to the dreary old straight-and-narrow. He swaps the life of a bookie for — surprise, surprise — that of a writer writing about bookies. At which he is so good that it is almost a shame that he will no doubt, move on to other themes.

Adrian Mole's crusader

STEPHEN J. RIVELLE presents his text as a translation of an 11th-century "diary" kept by his ancestor, Roger L'Escrivel, a French nobleman from the Cevennes and one of the leaders of the First Crusade to Jerusalem. I puzzled over whether the whole thing was authentic, as it vigorously claims to be. Then I spotted that "e" on the end of the word "Bookie" which is to any noun what fake verdigris is to ironwork. Rivelle tells us he was put onto the manuscript, which had been lying in the crypt of a church in the Cevennes for almost 1,000 years, by a lady in the public records office in Lyons. Somebody should interview that lady. She seems to crop up a lot in prefaces of one kind or another. I am sure Julian Barnes knows her, or her cousin in Rouen. On the flimsy and etymologically dodgy basis of the similarity of Rivelle's surname to Roger's sobriquet, the mayor of the village handed over this document, which Rivelle has translated into French would be hissing with that delightful



Rivelle: ancient script

A BOOKE OF DAYS By Stephen J. Rivelle Macmillan, £16.99 ISBN 0 333 65747 0

ly snide part of speech, the subjective of implied disbelief (the imperfect come-off-it). The diary takes us from Montpellier all the way to Jerusalem and back. The accounts of battles are tedious, as accounts of battles almost always are, but the introspective passages are interesting, even if you sometimes feel that he has slipped

out of his tent for the night and Adrian Mole has taken up his pen on his behalf.

The entries are annotated with little interventions from the descendant-translator, which bring about as much authenticity to the text as that antique "e". Notes do furnish a text, though, don't they? Of a crucial letter received by Roger in Saint Symeon from his wife back in Provence, note 46 tells us, "The letter has obviously been lost". By this time the disappointment is keen. Jehanne's sexual insatiability prompted the penitent Roger's departure, and a brief word from her at this point might have been welcome. I must, too, acknowledge a debt to the "translator" for the discovery of the adverb of time "yesterday", and have been trying to work it into my conversation since — well, yesterday, actually. Had the book been shorter, I would have enjoyed it more, but it is certainly of interest, though, like the crusaders themselves, somewhat weighed down by clobber.

HELEN STEVENSON

Dracula cloaked by anorak

CERTAIN fictional characters attract the anoraks. Their timetables and charts can always prove, for example, that Holmes was treated by Freud. No subsequent incarnation of Dracula, however, is a patch on the blood-letting that is Bram Stoker's one masterpiece. So strong was his conception that it traverses the novel's longeurs — and survives all the spin-offs, from Hammer movies to the recent, half-baked academic theory that the century's end and AIDS explain the current penchant for vampirism. In the late-1890s world of Supping With Panthers, Tom Holland goes much further, finding room not only for the Holmesian Dr Jack Elliot (they shared a tutor) but also Jack

SUPPING WITH PANTHERS By Tom Holland Little, Brown, £12.99 ISBN 0 316 87622 4

the Ripper, Oscar Wilde, Stoker himself and — somehow — Lord Byron. Told by many of the participants, including a budding actress and an ambitious politician, and deploying a panoply of letters, it is high entertainment with a dash of romance, which traverses London, from Harley Street to an East-End opium den. All this has its origins in a bizarre, Haggardian ceremony on the Indian border, apparently reported in Colonel Sir William Moorfield's With Rifles in the Raj. The medical ramifications of this

tribal ritual are even worse than feared by Dr Elliot, whom Moorfield meets out there. Back in London, a terrible criminal pattern emerges under the microscope. Needless to say, there is recourse to the contents of a Whitby graveyard. Shocking as the metropolitan revelations prove, they have an undue self-consciousness, whose absence from the long opening section made something genuinely chilling. Meanwhile, the NHS could surely woo the Government by making blood available — at a price — to these helpless creatures. It would do wonders for the crime rate.

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

Heart on a sleeve

THE LATE CHILD By Larry McMorry Orion, £16.99 ISBN 0 75280 070 1

There are two late children, in fact. There is Eddie, five-year-old unplanned light in the life of Harmony, his forty-something mother. And there is Pepper, Harmony's older daughter, out of touch for years, now suddenly dead of AIDS in New York. Harmony is a former Las Vegas showgirl gone slightly, slow to see. Once the most beautiful woman in town, photographed in the casinos with Elvis and Mr Sinatra, she now has only winsome, precocious Eddie to show for a lifetime of hopeless loves. Faced, abruptly, with the news that she no longer has a daughter, she abandons the flimsy constants of her life and takes to the road. Accompanied by her mismatched sisters, she heads home to Oklahoma.

They lose their luggage in the Grand Canyon, check into a brothel in Jersey City, find a puppy, meet the President, wreck their car. Oklahoma brings a reckoning. Back in the bosom of their dysfunctional family, the sisters consider what's left of their lives. Vivid, sometimes moving, often funny, this is a sentimental journey to the heart of America. And the heart of America is where it's always been: worn proudly on America's sleeve.

IAN BRUNSKILL



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CHILDREN

LONDON Carters Royal Berkshire Fair Featuring the usual steam funfair, fireworks and rock 'n' roll dogdems. Priory Park. Priory Road, N9 (01628 822 221). Today, 1-10.30pm; tomorrow, 1-9pm; phone for ticket price.

Hearts of Oak Five-year-olds and above are invited to watch a puppet display served up in a Spitting Image style. National Maritime Museum. Romney Road, SE10 (0181-858 4422). Today, tomorrow, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm; £5.50, concs £4.50, child £3.

Kids of the Wild West Theatre performance unravelling the mysteries of time travel for five to 12-year-olds. Open Air Theatre. Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). Today, 11.15am; £4.50.

Old Egg Adapted from the classic Ugly Duckling tale and accompanied by original songs. For three to five-year-olds. Polka Theatre for Children. The Broadway, SW19 (0181-543 4888). Today, 12.30pm and 2.30pm; £3.90.

Summer on the Square Workshops, music, performances and theatre. Peckham Square. Peckham High Street/Rye Lane, SE15 (0171-732 3232). Today, midday-4pm; free.

Sun, Sand and Sea Exotic costumes feature in a carnival club course for children. Chats Palace.



Warwick Castle: birds of prey and 15th-century knights compete for attention during this weekend's activities for all the family

Brooksby's Walk. E9 (0181-533 0227). Today, 1-6pm; phone for details.

REGIONAL BODELWYDDAN High Jinks Craft displays, games, sports drama and face painting for children of all ages. Bodelwyddan Castle. Bodelwyddan (01745 584 563). Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-midday, 12.30-2pm and 2.30-4pm; £1.25.

DOWNPATRICK The Vikings The life of northern Europe's

Dark Age conquerors with interactive activities and CD-Rom facilities for children. Down County Museum. The Mall (01396 615 218). Today, tomorrow, 2-5pm; free.

EDINBURGH Greyfriars Bobby Storytelling, puppet magic and singalong songs. Netherbow Arts Centre (Fringe Venue 30), High Street (0131-556 9579). Today, 2pm; £3, concs £2.50.

Winnie the Pooh Parable Puppet Theatre stages this classic tale of the honey-

loving bear. Netherbow Arts Centre, High Street (0131-556 9579). Today, 12.30pm; £3, concs £2.50.

LEEDS Rhythms of the City Highlights include Dangerous Doughnuts and the Bunny and Spring Emporium (today), plus tonight's salsa evening. Tomorrow's grand finale includes live music and the Natural Theatre Company. Rhythms of the City Festival. Various venues (0113-244 2111). Today, midday-late, ends tomorrow, midday-3.30pm; admission free.

NORWICH Snow White and the Dwarfs Adaptation of the classic fairy-tale for ages four to eight. Norwich Puppet Theatre, St James's, Whitefriars (01603 629 921). Today, 2.30pm; £3.75.

WARWICK Company Ecorcheur and Birds of Prey Action-packed extravaganza with mounted knights from the 15th century, foot combats and battle drills. Warwick Castle. (01926 495 421). Today, tomorrow, midday and 2.30pm; £5.25-£8.75.

COMEDY

LONDON Comedy Store: Best in Stand-Up Tonight's double slot for Phil Davey, Paul Zennon, John Moloney, Roger Monkhouse and Danny Morris. Comedy Store, Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426 914 433). Tonight, 8pm and midnight; £10.

Comes on a Saturday Night Featuring Justin Waite, Dave Thompson, Luis Alberto, Kit Nilson and Chris Hansford. Andy Fox MCs. Fulmar and Firkin, Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0590). Tonight, 8.30pm; free.

EDINBURGH Fringe Festival Highlights include: Mel and Sue - Planet Pussycat. The purring moggies offer 1990s style post-Ab-Fab humour. The Pleasance (0131-556 6550). Tonight, 6.20pm; £8, concs £7.

Greg Proops The resident American from Whose Line Is It Anyway? fame. Pleasance. The Pleasance (0131-556 6550). Tonight, tomorrow, 8.15pm; £8.50, concs £7.50 (tonight), £7.50, concs £6.50 (tomorrow).

So You Think You're Funny Sponsored by Channel 4, previous winners include Rhona Cameron and Phil Kay. Gilded Balloon Theatre, Cowgate (0131-226 2151).



Edinburgh: Mel and Sue

Tomorrow, 10.45pm; £6, concs £5.

CRITIC'S CHOICE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL Dylan Moran is the name on many comedy-lovers' lips this week as the Edinburgh Fringe Fest gets rolling and aficionados of stand-up whisper in corners about who might win the prestigious Perrier Award. Moran is louche, fashionably wasted-looking and reportedly charming the socks off the punters at the Pleasance. Returning on form after a year away, the young Irishman is rambling whimsically about his Catholic upbringing, hangovers and the differences between men and women - familiar territory maybe but sharply witty. The Pleasance. Over the Road, The Pleasance (0131-556 6550). Tonight, 9.15pm.

POP

LONDON Fun in the Sun Soea Day Super Blue Krosfyah, Shadow, Tommy Joseph, Sprang-a-Lang. Finsbury Park, N4 (0171-923 2555). Today, 2-10pm; £17.

Fun in the Sun Reggae Day Bunny Waller, Chaka Demus and Pliers, Spanner Banner, Augustus Pablo, Prince Lincoln and the Royal Rasses, Akabu. Finsbury Park, N4 (0171-923 2555). Tomorrow, 2-10pm; £20.

REGIONAL BARNSTAPLE Arlington Folk Festival John Renbourn and Wizz Jones, Parcel of Rogues, Signs of Life, Hearts of Oak, Bates Motel, Prairie Dogs. Arlington Court, (01273 850 296). Today, midday-midnight; £5, under 14s free.

CHELMSFORD Pulp, Supergrass, Electrica, Cast, Gary Numan, Stereolab, Jonathan Richman

Pulp headlines the V96 Festival, with a strong supporting bill. Hylands Park, (01245 495 028). Today, midday; phone for availability.



Donington: Ozzy Osborne

Paul Weller, Lighting Seeds, Charlatans, Tricky, Orbital, Menswear, The Cardigans Second day of V96, with 1960s-influenced sounds and adventurous dance acts. Hylands Park, (01245 495 028). Tomorrow, midday; £25, phone for availability.

DONINGTON Kiss, Ozzy Osborne, Sepultura, Dog Eat Dog, Biohazard Annual heavy metal festival. Donington Park, Castle Donington (0115 934 2044). Today, 10am; £27.

EXETER Dodgy, Loop Guru, Catatonia, Dharmas, Supernaturalis, Candystkins The Birmingham pop trio headline their Big Top tour. The Fairground Site, Matford (01392 425 309). Tomorrow, 3-10.30pm; £10-£13.

GUILDFORD Guildford Folk and Blues Festival Peter Green of Fleetwood Mac, Eddi Reader, Shane Macgowan and the Popes and Big Country. Stoke Park, (01483 454 159). Today, tomorrow, midday; £27-£32, day ticket £17-£20.

WARRINGTON Pulp, Supergrass, Electrica, Cast, Gary Numan, Stereolab, Jonathan Richman See Chelmsford.

Victoria Park. (0115-934 2000). Tomorrow, midday; £25.

CRITIC'S CHOICE SUMMER PARTY Newcastle Arena's multi-artist bill features some of the top contenders for the current pocket money vote. Bill-toppers East 17 will put across their pretty tunes and pale-faced raps with plenty of East End attitude, while local lads Ant and Dec will just grin relentlessly, do silly dances and hope no-one can tell the difference. Upside Down and current chart-toppers, the Spice Girls, should manage to be both banal and fascinating at the same time, and relative veteran Cathy Dennis, a clever songwriter, may run rings around them all. ALAN JACKSON Newcastle Arena, Neville Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (0191-401 8000). Today, 5pm; £9.

FAIR REGIONAL Streets of London Festival Part of the annual street theatre fest, today's highlights include performances by the Beetroots, Heir of Insanity, Doggy Clutch, plus the Whalley Range All Stars. Streets of London Festival Information, Various Venues, Canary Wharf, E14 (01273 821 588). Today, phone for performance times; free.

West London Antiques Fair Wide display of decorative items, rare antiques and other collectables. Kensington Town Hall, Horton Street, W8 (0171-937 5464). Today, ends tomorrow, 11am-6pm; free.

REGIONAL EDINBURGH International, Fringe and Film Festivals The 50th annual Edinburgh Festival is now in full swing, featuring theatre, comedy, music, dance, opera and visual art events. Various venues. International festival (0131-225 5756; fringe festival, 0131-226 5257/5258; film festival 0131-228 4051).

Market Bosworth: Joust and Battle Re-enactment Experience the past with this re-creation of a medieval battle, plus Morris men, live music and jousting. Bosworth Battlefield, (01455 290 429). Tomorrow, 1pm; £4, concs £2, free for under fives.

MILFORD Puchsia Festival Spectacular colour blooming in a regal setting. Shugborough near Stafford (01899 881 388). Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm; £3, concs £2.50, child £1.

ROSS-ON-WYE International Festival First year for the global-themed fest, featuring dance, theatre and world music. Information, various venues (01497 821 299). Today

and tomorrow, times vary; prices vary; phone for details.

WOLVERHAMPTON Black Country Film Festival Exhibition Part of the Black Country film series, featuring a collection of cinematic skills. Wolverhampton Light House, Fryer Street (01902 716 055). Today, tomorrow, 10am-9pm; free.

FILM Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES THE CROSSING GUARD (15) Grieving father (Jack Nicholson) plots revenge for his daughter's death. Portentous drama from writer-director Sean Penn. Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) Ritzy (0171-737 2121)

HUNGER ARTIST Bernard Rudden's intense 45-minute film, inspired by Kafka, plus two other British shorts. ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

LAST DANCE (18) Sharon Stone sits on Death Row; lawyer Rob Morrow wants to save her. Earrest but perfunctory drama from Bruce Beresford. Odeons: Haymarket (01426-915 353) Kensington (01426-914666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) Virgin Cottage (0171-352 5096)

NICK OF TIME Christopher Walken forces Johnny Depp to kill the Governor of California. Passable time waster, directed by John Badham. NFT (0171-928 3232)

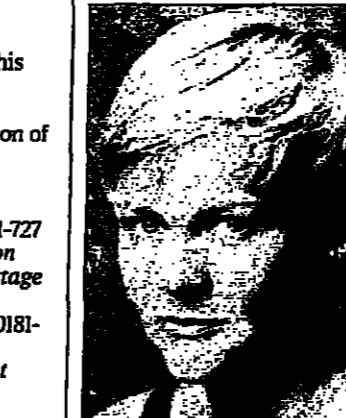
CURRENT ♦ THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (U) Victor Hugo meets the Disney animators. A perverse and perversely successful, mix of the cuddly and downright. Directors, Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise. MGM Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) Mezzanine (01426 914098) Swiss Cottage (01426 914 098) Rio (0171-254 6677) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0990 888990) Virgin: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Warner (0171-437 4343)

♦ TWISTER (PG) Cartoon characters chase tornadoes. Great special effects, but repetition softens the impact. ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) Empire (0990 888990) MGM Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Notting Hill Coronet (0171-721 6705) Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) Plaza (0990 888990) Rio (0171-254 6677) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0990 888990) Virgin: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

CLASSICAL

LONDON BBC Symphony Orchestra/Belohlavik Mozart's final Piano Concerto performed by Richard Goode, Janáček's stirring Sinfonietta plus choral works by Dvořák and Martinů. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm; £4-£18.

Clod Ensemble Rich collection of chamber music from the 20th century, including Dumbarton Oaks by Stravinsky. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2222). Tonight, 8pm; £7.50, concs £5.



London: Barbara Bonney

First Act Opera International The Brandenburg Concert Orchestra performs a series of Baroque opera classics. Chickwick House, Burlington Lane (0181-577 6969). Tomorrow, 7pm; £10, concs £7.50.

London Concertante/Grist Series of Baroque classics. St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-437 5053). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8-£12.

New Chamber Opera/Burden Music last performed during the 17th century, including works by Stradella and Pasquali. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm; 6.30pm; £6.

New London Consort/Pickett Filgrim songs and dances from medieval times. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm; £7 and £10.

Oslo Philharmonic/Jansons Songs by Grieg performed by Barbara Bonney with Mahler's Fifth Symphony. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £4-£22.

Royal Philharmonic/Sutherland Featuring Elgar's Symphony No.1. Kenwood, Hampstead Lane, NW3 (0171-413 1443). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10.50 and £13.50, concs £8.50.

REGIONAL

DARTINGTON Kuu Hu/Nigel Hutchinson Mozart's and Schumann's violin sonatas, plus a Schubert Sonatina. Great Hall, (01803 863 073). Tomorrow, 8.15pm; £7 and £10.

EDINBURGH Baroque Concert The Philomusica of Edinburgh performs Vivaldi, Telemann and Mozart. St John's Church Hall, West End, Princes Street (0131-556 0492). Tonight, 4.30pm; £6, concs £3.

Biwa, Japanese Late Silvan Kyokurai Guinard performs ethereal ballads from Japan. Randolph Studio, Institut Francais d'Ecosee, Randolph Crescent (0131-225 5366). Tonight, 8.30pm; £5, concs £4.50.

Burns Song The soprano Mhairi Lawson performs various works by Schumann and Berg. Festival Theatre, Nicolson Street (0131-529 6000). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £5-£16.

CRITIC'S CHOICE NEW YORK CALLING Veteran maestro Kurt Masur has given the New York Philharmonic a new lustre in the great romantic masterpieces as the orchestra will doubtless demonstrate at the Edinburgh Festival this weekend. Tonight a solo American work, Ned Rorem's Cor Anglais Concerto, is sandwiched between Strauss and Beethoven. Tomorrow evening, Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet suite is the prelude to Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. Although not very adventurous, it will probably be magnificent. RICHARD MORRISON

Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh (0131-225 5756). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm; £5-£27.50.

Scottish Chamber Choir Recital of French choral and organ music, featuring works by Debussy, Fauré and Messiaen. Old St Paul's Church and Hall, Jeffrey Street (0131-557 6696). Tomorrow, 8pm; £6, concs £4.

Scottish Fiddle Music The fiddlers include Aly Bain and Alasdair Fraser. Greyfriars Kirk, Greyfriars Place (0131-225 8839). Tonight, 10.30pm; £10.

Thomas Zehetmaier, Heinrich Schiff, Tili Fellner Beethoven's and Webern's cello and piano and violin and piano works, plus Schubert's B flat Trio. Queen's Hall, Clerk Street (0131-668 2019). Today, 11am; £4-£16.

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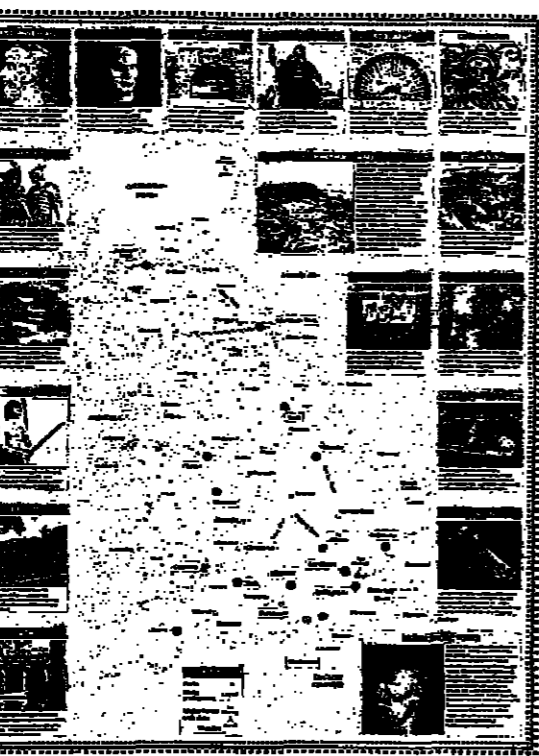
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FRANCE



Miami: From dazzling 1930s Art Deco hotels and the good life to the wildlife of the mysterious Everglades

The lasting art and soul of the Sunshine state

The preconceived image I had of Miami was not an attractive one: it was a place where the super-rich went to die, and where tourists ran a risk of dying. It would be full of leathery matrons in rhinestone sunglasses, silicone-breasted starlets, and drug-dealers. It would be vulgar, expensive and too hot.

The Park Central Hotel on Ocean Drive proved to be none of these things. Despite its location overlooking the beach in the Art Deco district, its prices were relatively modest, with rooms starting at £43 per person for a minimum of three nights, rising to about £103 for an ocean-front suite.

Built in 1937 and sympathetically restored, the hotel retains an atmosphere of late 1930s glamour, with its whirling ceiling fans, monochrome furnishings and piano bar, where you can sip your Margarita and feel like an extra in a Bogart movie.

Appropriately, the pavement café, which doubles as the hotel's restaurant, is called Casablanca. Here, you can linger over your cappuccino and croissants while enjoying the view of swaying palm trees, cruising convertibles and lissom beauties flashing

by on-line roller skates. After a late brunch of French toast and maple syrup, we strolled along Ocean Drive in the warm sunshine, looking at the shops, the people and, above all, the architecture. Every one of the hotels in this half-mile stretch of South Beach is an Art Deco gem, whose distinctive four-storey structures with their "eyebrow" balconies, steel-framed windows and Egyptian architraves have been enhanced, since the early 1980s, by washes of pastel lemon, pistachio, pink and blue.

One evening, after dinner at Les Deux Fontaines on Ocean Drive, where a live band played atmospheric blues in the restaurant's open-air courtyard, we dropped in at Mangoes, a club specialising in salsa and merengue, where the dancing was still going strong at 2am.

Next day was devoted to shopping. We started on Lincoln Road, whose attractively off-beat mix of clothes shops, theatres and restaurants is augmented on Sunday by Camden Market-style antique stalls selling everything from 1950s sunglasses to fake leopard-skin coats. Swimwear is relatively cheap here, though the gold lamé one-piece I had

set my heart on cost \$100, plus tax. I settled for a skimpy T-shirt at £26.

Later, we took a cab to Cocowalk, an open air shopping complex in Coconut Grove, where we browsed around shops selling jewellery, shoes and yet more swimwear before going for lunch at the Café Tu Tu Tango, a tapas bar overlooking the mall, where the small but delicious portions of pizza, risotto and quesadillas soon added up to a full stomach.

There was time for more shopping in Espanola Way, where you can buy hand-rolled Cuban cigars in Babalú which also sells Cuba Libre mugs and T-shirts, and tapes of Cuban music.

Miami is a very Latin American city. Little Havana, across the bay from South Beach, is an enclave of Cuban restaurants and nightclubs playing intoxicatingly danceable music; to take a walk along 8th Street, or Calle Ocho, is to find yourself in a different kind of America. Its cultural eclecticism is one of the city's appealing features: it seems to be an intersection of North and South, and of Old World and New.

Another night, we drove along the MacArthur Causeway to Le Festival restaurant in the upmarket district of Coral Gables, which was like a little bit of Paris. The restaurant has recently been awarded its "five diamonds", and the food was as superb.



Chris Blackwell, who revived four of Miami's Art Deco hotels, keeps his pink Cadillac parked outside the Marlin

Spending a day at the beach is the city's quintessential experience. We chose the Sonesta Beach Resort, on Key Biscayne, a short drive from the city centre across the Rickenbacker Causeway. This private beach, attached to the luxury hotel of the same name, has everything you could wish for: white sand, blue sea, palm trees and an outdoor bar serving planter's punch and strawberry daiquiris.

For the more energetic, there is an Olympic-size swimming pool, and watersports from jetskiing to parasailing and speedboating.

After several days in the city, visiting the Everglades was a complete contrast. Instead of the vibrant hum of city traffic, there was nothing but the empty highway ahead of us, a dead straight white line bisect-

ing mile after mile of subtropical forest and wetlands. The journey to Everglades City along Highway 41, the "Tamiami Trail", takes an hour and 45 minutes. Once there, it feels as if you've stepped back 40 years. The town's neat wooden houses are built on stilts, to protect against flooding, and are arranged along a grid of streets so straight they must have been laid out on graph paper. The town has a population of 500 and a fish restaurant, the Oyster House, serving stone crab, grouper and oysters.

caught off the Atlantic coast that morning.

After lunch we went in search of some wildlife: alligators, to be specific. On a bizarre-looking craft with a big fan on the back, we journeyed into the wetlands, through floating islands of sawgrass and waterlilies. Alligators soon appeared, seemingly undeterred by the noise of the boat's engine. They allowed themselves to be photographed and then sank slowly beneath the mirror-like surface of the water.

Much of the Everglades is

now too polluted to provide good fishing, our guide said, so the indigenous population of Miccosukee Indians had been forced to look elsewhere for their livelihood. He had grown up in one of the Everglades' villages; it is now deserted, a sad reminder of a vanished way of life.

Back in the city, we headed for the Hard Rock Café on Bayside, for hamburger and French fries, followed by dancing — at Lua, in Espanola Way, whose elegant interior, all mirrors and chandeliers, is offset by loud jazz-funk.

Next stop was the more serene Delano Hotel on Collins Avenue, whose romantically surreal lobby and bar, designed by Phillip Starck, seems like a backdrop for a *Vogue* photo-shoot.

The night was still young, and there were still places to go, people to see. In Miami, the only thing you might find in short supply is sleep.

CHRISTINA KONING

The author was a guest of American Airlines and the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

MIAMI FACT FILE

- American Airlines (0181-577 9966) flies direct from Heathrow to Miami from £325 (low season) to £525.
- Recommended hotels and the costs per person a night, room only, are: Park Central Hotel, from £51; Doubletree Hotel, £70; and the Sonesta Hotel, Key Biscayne, £106.
- Greater Miami Convention and Visitors' Bureau, 0800 892994.
- A day trip with Styles Tours through the Everglades costs £51, including lunch.
- Four of Miami's famous Art Deco hotels — the Lestic, Cavalier, Marlin and Casa Grande — are owned by Island Outpost (information and reservations, freephone 0800 614 790) and cost from about £62 per person a night, plus 11.5 per cent tax. The company also runs (as a two-centre attraction) the Compass Point Hotel, Nassau, Bahamas (from about £90 a night, plus 15 per cent tax) and the Pink Sands Resort, where a one-bedroom cottage, breakfast and dinner costs from about £200 plus 20 per cent tax.

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Exploring the jungle that is Rio de Janeiro at its liveliest
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TRAVEL TIPS, PAGE 20

Orlando: Bored with theme parks? Disney can help you learn more than you wanted to know

The heart of the Disney World theme park in Orlando, Florida, is probably the last place you would expect to find one of the more obscure musings of Winston Churchill about education, hand-painted above a doorway. It is just that sort of place. At least, not until

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recently. In its search for ever-more innovative ways of luring people to its 30,000-acre resort, Disney has come up with a college-style campus where tourists bored with the thrill of the theme park can learn some useful, and some not-so-useful skills.

That Churchill quote, which

appears on a campus building, is, therefore, more apt than would first appear. "I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught," said Churchill in a 1952 speech. Disney's vision is to make the teaching as entertaining as it is educational.

Tucked away from the theme park, the Disney Institute is in its own grounds of pastel-coloured buildings designed to evoke turn-of-the-century small-town America. With studios, theatres, kitchens and sports facilities, it offers a core of about 60 learning programmes to teach everything from cooking and animation techniques to topiary and television news scripting. Being American, it inevitably has courses for "personal development".

Guests enrol for three or seven days, during which time they stay in bungalows around a lake. Children under ten are not encouraged, although, since it opened in the spring, the institute has had to accommodate them with their own learning programmes.

Meals are eaten in the campus restaurant or from lunch boxes for those too busy to sit down for a meal.

Guest lecturers supplement the regular tutors and British tastes are represented by the lyricist Tim Rice, who earned huge royalties from the film *The Lion King*.

The concept of self-improvement seminars in pleasant surroundings is quintessentially American. The Chautauqua Institution in upstate New York, where the Disney chairman, Michael Eisner, first discovered the idea several years ago, is the sort of place where trendy East Coast intellectuals like to spend their weekends discussing politics, philosophy and the perform-



Cooking with Disney Mickey Mouse teaching course

ing arts. Disney has kept the concept but brought its ambitions down to more practical levels: rock climbing, for instance, or interior design.

But does it appeal to the 30 million tourists who flock to Disney World every year, particularly the record million-plus Britons who are expected to jet into Orlando to visit Disney World this summer?

Disney acknowledges that the institute will be of interest only to a niche market and will be able to accommodate only 1,000 "students". Most will be from the "baby boomer" generation of Americans who have grown up with Disney theme parks and now, accord-

ing to research, are looking for an "enrichment vacation". Britons, however, may be less enamoured with the "educationism". They may also be put off by the Disney approach which encourages participants to "bond" with fellow students at the beginning of each session, a group therapy that Americans seem to embrace enthusiastically, even if it is just to learn how to create an animated character or take better photographs.

Most non-Americans on my courses (cooking and animation) were, quite frankly, embarrassed. The two-hour relationship course to "empower your life and work with new vigour and vitality" might be beyond the pale for most Britons.

Yet it would be wrong to ignore the potential of the institute for some Britons. Although Disney is keen to sell the institute as a package, especially to fill hotel rooms, visitors to Disney World can pay \$49-\$69 (about £32-£45), depending on season, to join the courses for a day. Hence, while the children are in the theme or water park, parents can play golf or improve their tennis, or relax with a seaweed hydro massage.

It may be that better cooking, film-making, learning about the environment and so on has some appeal as a one-day diversion from the theme park under the hot Florida sun, especially for repeat visitors.

DAVID CHURCHILL

- The author was a guest of the Disney Institute at Disney World.
- Bridge Travel Service (01992 456 101) has a seven-night institute offer, including flights, accommodation, meals and classes, at £997 per person.
- The Disney Institute direct number is (01) 407 827-1100. Details of other Disney tours are available from (01) 407 930 887.

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Stockholm: The supposed 'Venice of the North' is much cleaner and better run than its Italian cousin

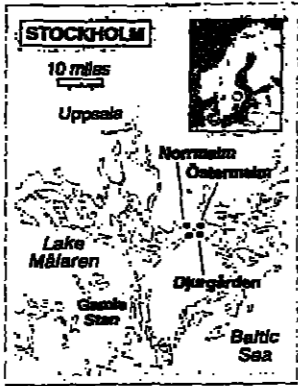
Swedes with a watery taste

Ingmar Bergman, one of Stockholm's most famous sons, said: "It's ridiculous to think of Stockholm as a city. It is simply a rather large village. You wonder what it's doing there, looking so important."

Certainly, with only a third of its area occupied by buildings (one third is water and the other parkland), much of the capital does not feel like a city at all. Of course, it has wide elegant boulevards lined with smart shops and huge modern shopping centres, but Stockholm does have a fresh, wholesome, almost unworldly feel about it. In which other city could you dive off steps by the city hall or fish for salmon in the town centre?

It is probably unfair to call Stockholm the "Venice of the north". An abundance of water and a long mercantile and military history may allow comparisons but there are many similarities. It is cleaner and more efficiently run than Venice, accommodating its substantial tourist influx rather than being swamped by it. Finally, there may be some wider significance in the fact that, for geological reasons, Stockholm is rising, whereas Venice is sinking.

Stockholm consists of 28 islands lying in a wide estuary



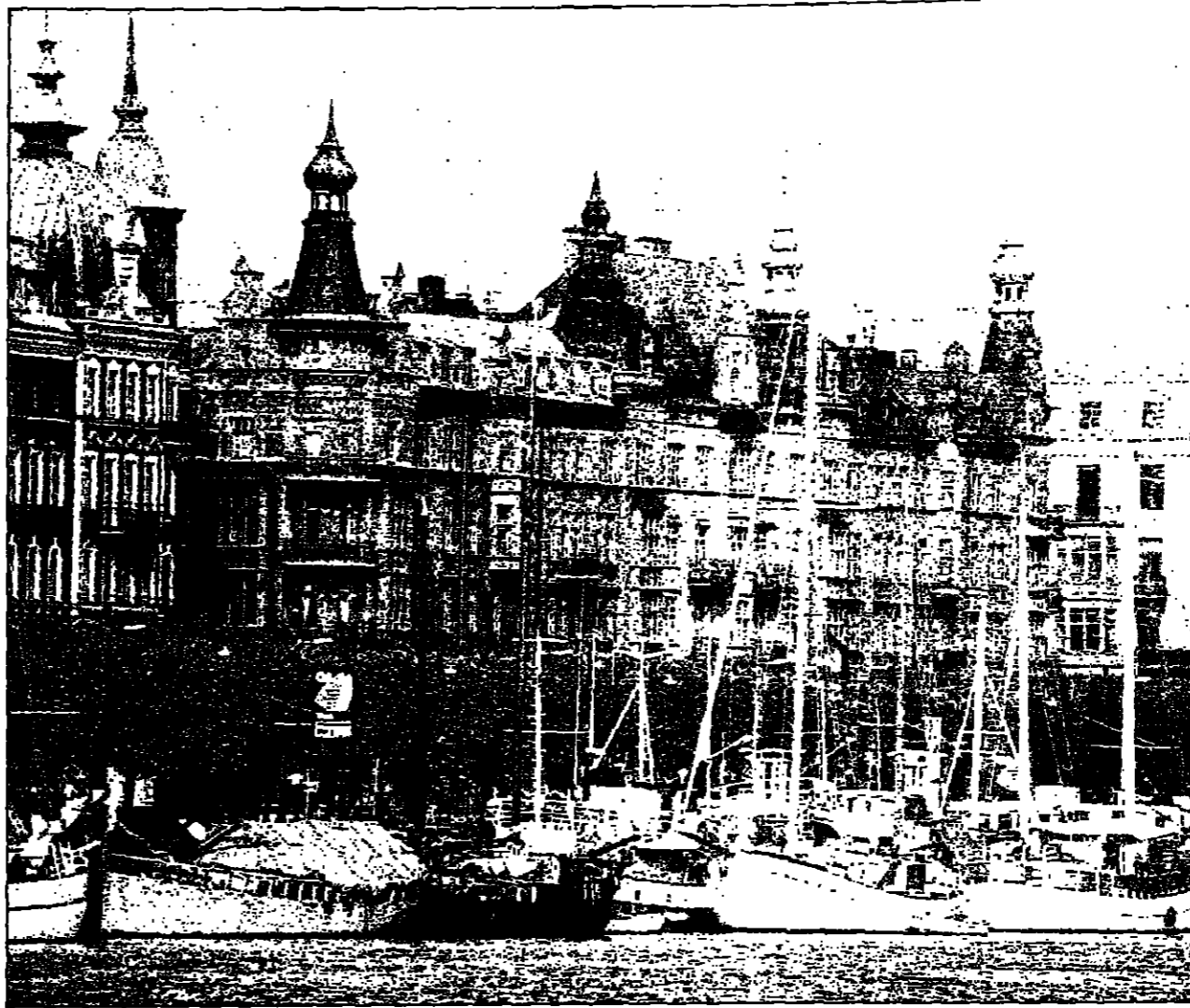
leading to the Baltic and the sea is a constant brooding presence. Wherever you go you are reminded of the role of water in the city's history. Whether glittering in the gentle summer sun or frozen flat and slate grey in the winter, it provides a simple, serene backdrop to the city's magnificent Baroque architecture. The old town, Gamla Stan, where Stockholm was founded in the 13th century, is dominated by the royal palace, the Kungliga Slottet. Larger than Buckingham Palace, as the Swedes will tell you, this vast baroque and rococo confection stands as a monument to the wealth and power of Sweden's 18th-century kings. Today, the country's bicycling monarchy has cycled off to its country resi-

dence and so the palace is used only for state occasions. The state apartments are open to the public, as is the Treasury with its array of royal jewellery dating back to 1650.

Because most of Gamla Stan is closed to cars, you can walk right up to the palace and the Storkyrkan, the Great Church. At night, the cobbled streets, Baroque decorations and gentle lighting give it the appearance of a stage set for a Mozart opera. By contrast, the simple interior of the Great Church is striking with its brick columns and black and silver altarpieces. This is the highest point of the old town and Swedish kings and queens are crowned and married here.

Given its size and international standing, Stockholm has more than its fair share of castles, monuments and palaces whose history is reflected in their magnificent architecture and decoration.

The Riddarhuset, the House of Nobles, where the upper house met in the 17th century, displays 2,500 coats of arms. On the neighbouring island is Riddarholmskyrkan church, where 600 years' worth of Swedish kings are buried. Leading down from the royal palace and Stortorget, the main square, are narrow



Wherever you look, the watersides of Stockholm are crammed with working boats, ferries and pleasure cruisers

cobbled streets filled with shops, Konditoris (paisseries), restaurants and the old, tall merchants' houses. By contrast, Borstmaln and Ostermaln, to the west, have a strong American feel, with large modern blocks and wide streets of surging traffic.

Sweden takes its design seriously, and there are plenty of shop windows displaying the distinctively stark Post-Modernist style which is again fashionable. Clothes and furniture shops abound, such as Design Torget (near the Kulturhuset), the Conranesque R.O.O.M. (Alstromergatan 20) and NK (Hamngatan 18-20), the city's main department store. Prices may limit most to window shopping.

Temporarily but comfortably housed in Norrmalm until the opening of its new venue in 1998, when the city becomes European cultural capital, is the Modern Art Museum with a respectable collection of American and European post and abstract Impressionists.

Sweden's museums are run with gentle efficiency. The most innovative of them are on Djurgården, an island to the

north of Gamla Stan, which is almost exclusively parkland. For my money, the most striking of them all is the Vasa, which takes its name from the 300-year-old warship it houses. Nothing can prepare you for the vast, menacing presence of this 700-tonne warship, raised from Stockholm harbour where it sank 15 minutes into its maiden voyage in 1628.

Almost as awe-inspiring is the Guldrummet at the Historiska Museet in Ostermaln, a womb-like subterranean vault with gold coins and jewellery dating from 10,000 BC.

Should you crave even more water and island life, the Stockholm archipelago has 24,000 islands which can be reached by boat. Most are deserted, but others support tiny communities in traditional wooden houses. You are allowed to land on any of the islands one and walk around the shoreline, provided that you do not annoy its owner.

The summer offers guaranteed crowd-free swimming, sailing and sunbathing, especially on Sandhamn, home of

the Royal Yacht Club. During the winter you can skate from one island to another. Swedish food is fighting a losing battle against lighter more varied immigrant varieties, especially Italian. The indigenous fare is fish-based and hearty, but most restaurants, such as Diana (Brunnsgränd 2) or Hannas Krog (Skanegatan 80) offer a successful mixture.

Similarly, Swedish patisserie is comforting rather than dainty, but irresistible combined with aromatic Swedish coffee offered in the cosy warmth of one of the city's coffee shops such as Sturekatten (Riddarsgatan 4). More effete patisserie is available at the Opera House Cafe where you can attack a smorgasbord of gateaux and coffee and look out over the water.

SIMON BROOKE
The author was a guest of SAS, the Hotel Victory and Kallhagens.

FACT FILE

- SAS (0345 010789) and BA (0345 111222) have regular flights from London to Stockholm from £205 return.
- Hotel Victory, Lilla Nygatan (00 46 8 143090, fax 202177) and Kallhagens Wardshus, Djurgårdsbrunnsvägen 10 (00 46 8 6650300, fax 6650399) offer two-night weekend breaks, including flights from £335.
- Weekend and short breaks, including flights and accommodation, are available from £20 with Norvika (0171-409 7334), and from £289 with SAS (0141-951 8988). Scan Meridian offers holidays in the Stockholm archipelago from £259 and packages to the city itself.
- Recommended guides: the *Rough Guide to Scandinavia* (£10.99) and *Fodor's Sweden* (£9.99).
- Average winter temperatures in Stockholm are -3C; summer, 15C-20C. Long summer nights change the character of the city, with more events (especially eating and drinking) taking place. Winters are cold but often sunny.
- Swedish Travel and Tourism Council, 11 Montagu Place, London W1 (0171-724 5868).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 21

HAMMADA

(b) A flat rocky area of desert blown free of sand by the wind, typical of the Sahara. The Arabic word *hammada*. "Rocky wastes, with the bare exposure of fissured rocks as dominant features of the scene, form the hammada type of the Sahara."

MONADNOCK

(a) A hill or mountain of erosion-resistant rock rising above a plain. A toponym from the name of a mountain in New Hampshire, USA, having this character. The toponym appears in Melville's *Moby Dick* (1851), "his great Monadnock hump". Auden, *Age of Anxiety*, 1947: "O stilly stand, a staid monadnock. / On her penitence."

HEPBURN

(b) A Romanised transcription of Japanese characters. An eponym of J. C. Hepburn (1815-1911), an American missionary and physician. "These [Japanese] sounds are transcribed into Roman letters, either by the Hepburn system or by the Japanese system of 'New spelling'. The outside world sticks to the Hepburn system."

MACHER

(a) A man of impudence, a bigwig; a braggart. Often derogatory. Yiddish, from the German *macher* a maker or doer. Saul Bellow, *Herzog*, 1964: "He's a fine fellow, Nor like that macher, Alexander. Always some scandal about him."

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TRAVEL

Britain: Dodgems and disappointment in Minehead; unlimited fun for children and parents in Wiltshire



Butlin's fare is time-warp 1950s. Fresh food was scarce

Butlin's and that sinking feeling

I was half term at Butlin's, Minehead, on the north Somerset coast. The sun shone brightly, its heat tempered by a sharp sea breeze. My two young sons and I slid down the helter skelter, rode the carousel, ate candy floss and ice-cream and felt slightly sick on a number of gravity-defying rides.

On the Octopus, we flew around and up and down, winning fleeting glances of sparkling waves, a tiny fishing port, green Somerset hills and, below us, striped fairground awnings. My sons shrieked and whooped with delight. After 35 years of waiting, I was fulfilling a dream.

The Butlin's I had glimpsed as a child was a black and white version advertised on television. There were smiling redcoats and equally smiling children, and the screen was slashed across with "All for free". My father did not share my enthusiasm and, despite pleas, I never went. Perhaps he was right. For during our weekend at Butlin's that moment of dream fulfillment was brief.

At the start, there were merely teething problems. Our room was equipped with television, kettle, blow heaters and constant hot water, but it did not have towels - some-



Take the plunge at Butlin's in Minehead, Somerset, but visitors must remember to bring their own towels, they are not provided, and nor is soap

haven't seen vegetables boiled to a pulp in years. Apart from a banana offered at one meal, the nearest thing we got to fresh food during the whole stay was the cocktail of tinned grapefruit and mandarin orange segments on Sunday's gala menu - which Oliver loved. He asked why I never gave it to him at home.

When we went on the dodgems a morose girl yelled at us not to bump into any other car, which seemed to defeat the object of the game.

It could be argued that £171.39 for three nights for three people on half board with a good amount of entertainment is too good a deal to allow for complaint. But no one should have to suffer dirt, shabbiness, barely adequate food, a string of hidden costs and a staff who make you wish you had stayed at home.

On the last morning, there were empty beer bottles in the duckpond. William had gone to play indoor football. Oliver and I took a last turn at the funfair. I suggested the carousel. It looked closed, but we found the attendant in his hut. "Are you open?" I asked. "At 10 o'clock," he said looking glum. It was 10.30am. "May we have a ride, please?" He shuffled to his feet. "Do you want music?" "Yes, please." "Oh, no," he groaned. "I have to listen to that all day long." Oliver and I clambered onto our peeling horses, enjoyed our ride and went home.

LOUISE NICHOLSON

The author stayed in a county room at Butlin's Somerset World, Minehead, Somerset.

FACT FILE

- Butlin's brochures can be ordered from Butlin's Holiday Worlds, Freepost, WDP496, Hermitage Road, London N4 1BR, or by telephone (0181-880 8151); Central Butlin's booking is 0345 700700.
- Weekend breaks are from Friday afternoon to Monday (check-out at 10am, activities for the rest of the day).
- The July 5-8 weekend break at Somerset World costs £75 per adult (15 and over) for a budget room, rising through county room and county suite to a premier room at £134; children aged two to 14 are half price.
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OR TRY CENTER PARCS...

LOUISE NICHOLSON'S visit to Butlin's (above) was the fulfilment of a dream that sadly turned sour. Children today clamouring to go to Center Parcs will not be disappointed and nor will their parents, writes Timothy Rice.

Ignore the tacky name. Designer-fun this may be, but it is achieved with taste and style. The Center Parc at Longleat Forest, Wiltshire was as smoothly run as you would expect of the Dutch, who dreamt up the whole idea. No leaky showers, no grubby rooms - and no sleepy staff, just old-fashioned no-fuss helpfulness.

My two daughters, aged 6 and 4, adored it. All those traffic-free roads through the forests (cars are rarely permitted on site) were heaven for pavement-bikers. The Sub-tropical Swimming Paradise came a close second favourite, with its outdoor wild water rapids. They tried short tennis (small rackets and a foam ball), roller-skating, Arthurian crazy golf (castles, dragons, moats, you name it), well-equipped playgrounds, ten-pin bowling and a kindergarten session.

Our "villa" overlooking a lake was peaceful and comfortable. One night a babysitter came while we went out to La Caprice, a good French restaurant. There are many other places to eat, uniformly good but not cheap.

Price is the only serious caveat. An "executive" two-bedroomed villa such as ours (maximum four people) would cost £529 for a long weekend if you went next Friday. Then there are the extras - meals, court fees, racket hire, etc. You could take your own executive food but the cook in the family probably wants a break too. Or you could all go to Butlin's.

The author was a guest of Center Parcs. The other two are in Nottinghamshire and Suffolk. Prices are all per villa and vary according to season and to which option you choose - a long weekend, four weekdays or a whole week. All bookings 01623 411411.

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Brazil: An intoxicating look at Rio de Janeiro, a glimpse of the spectacular Iguacu Falls and mountain...

You might as well get drunk if you're not in Brazil

My love affair with Brazil started when I lived there 30 years ago and has continued, despite the infrequency of my visits. My comments following a recent trip there should, I suppose, be taken in the light of this passion.

On the basis that no two-week holiday in a country stretching 4,319km east to west and 4,394km north to south, with more than 153 million inhabitants, can begin to cover the basics, three ports of call must serve to give a flavour.

The first is Rio: *Cidade Maravilhosa*. As the late, great Tom Jobim wrote in his song *Samba do Avião (Aeroplane Samba)*: "My soul sings as I see Rio de Janeiro..." as you set foot on the ground at Rio Internacional Airport, bend down and kiss it, then grab a cab and zoom off into the city along the smart Red Route, built for the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Nowhere on earth has the configuration of Rio: vertiginous giant black granite rocks rise out of the tropical forested hill slopes; long fingers of aquamarine sea, rimmed by mile upon mile of white beaches, penetrate the land at every opportunity. To experience the full impact of this, absolute must-visits are the cable-car ride connecting the two large lumps in the sea known as Sugar Loaf (*Paço do Acucar*); for vertigo sufferers, like me, go only to the first lump (closing your eyes while in the cable-car) and view from there. The other essential

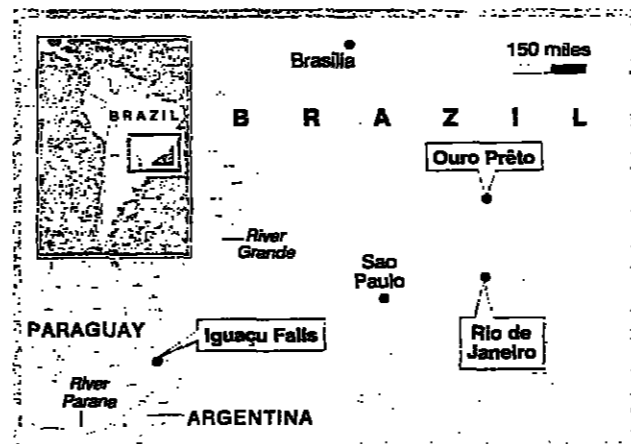


Rio, above, is boisterous, funny, romantic and utterly seductive. Copacabana Beach, below, where the sun shines all year round, is a favourite with Brazilians and visitors

viewing spot is the Corcovado mountain topped by the Christ figure which, arms outstretched, watches over the city. From here, the whole of Guanabara Bay can be seen, as well as the awesome figure of Christ from close-up. Up there, it feels like a holy place. The racial concoction that gives Brazilians their character can be seen at every street corner. Here, at any *barzinho* (little bar, *zinho* being the ubiquitous diminutive) gulping a *cafézinho*, a delectable *vitamina* (mixed fruit mushed in the whizzer) or a fiery *cachaça* (local sugar cane liquor) are the descendants of Portuguese, Indian and African forebears.

Scarcely a soul in Brazil does not have traces of all of these forebears in their blood. The mixture is boisterous, romantic, funny and utterly seductive, and Brazilian culture, especially its music, dancing, cooking, art and architecture, flourishes in the rich stew.

There's no place better to observe these characteristics than at *Estudantina*, a cavernous 1940s-style dancehall in the centre of the city. Writ large as you enter the generous wooden staircase are the words: "*Enquanto houver dança haverá esperança*" (While there is dancing there is hope). Lofty wooden ceilings, walls plastered in photo-



graphs, wooden floors swept by whooshing gusts of wind from the fans and the windows wide open to the warm Rio night, this has been a dancing rendezvous for 50 years and remains virtually unchanged.

A jaunty 12-piece band resplendent in cricketer whites plays the night away: this is not carnival, this is every week: *sambas* and *chorinhos*, *lambadas*, *boleros* and *salsas*, plus foxtrots and quicksteps. Participants actually hold

each other as in ballroom dancing in what is a revived craze throughout Brazil, as well as, I gather, in the rest of the world. Whole families, streetloads of people, turn up in their glad rags: old, young, fat, thin, black, white, *chauffeurs* and domestics, privileged and poor, the *mix* is infinite. Rules are written up on the walls: no short skirts, no drinks, no "rough kissing". The most *elegantissimo* black man of about 80 whirled a stropky-looking woman

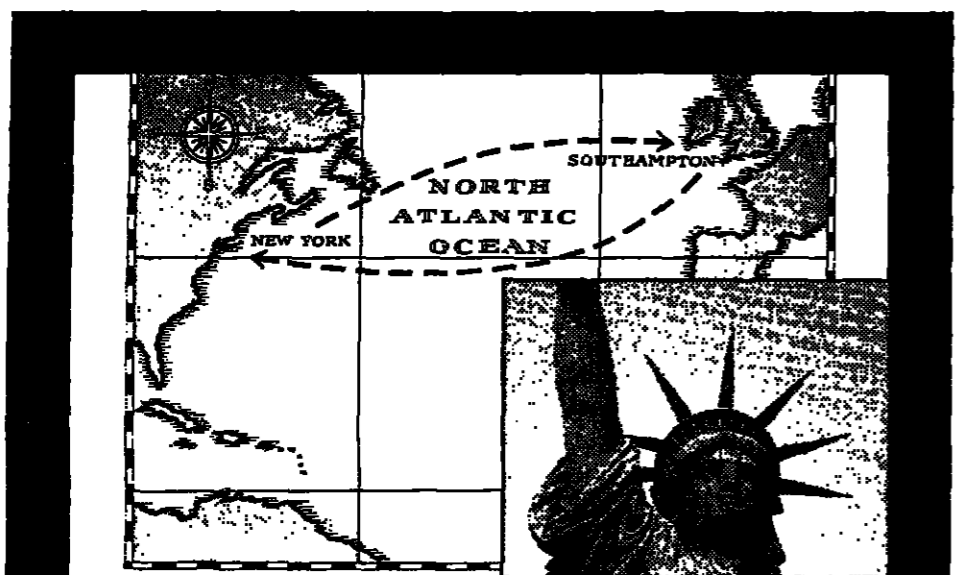
around with the grace and solicitous attention of a Fred Astaire.

In front of the beautifully revamped Copacabana Palace Hotel, kiosks selling nectar out of coconuts dot the famous swirling black and white mosaics of the beachfront. One of these, the Rainbow Kiosk, known locally as the Gay-osc, attracts huge crowds of activists and onlookers nightly. Inside the ever-glamorous "Copa" hover the ghosts of Ginger Rogers and Fred.

whose pictures line the Golden Room along with Carmen Miranda, Thomas Mann, Bing Crosby, Igor Stravinsky, Mick Jagger, Mary Pickford, Margot Fonteyn, Orson Welles and a host of other celebs (including, mind-bogglingly, John Major), all of whom have signed the famous Golden Book, going strong since 1923.

An enchanting view of Brazilian life and death can be seen in the museum of folk art at the *Casa do Pontal*, which lies at the end of the string of beaches which extend from Leme and Copacabana, through Ipanema, Barra da Tijuca and beyond. Lovingly assembled over 30 years by Jacques van de Beucque, it contains more than 3,500 objects in clay and wood by native artists from all over Brazil. All human life is here, some of it mechanically active as in the great set pieces: a wedding or a circus or a carnival in Rio; others are static - midwives attending births, dentists and doctors operating, footballers playing, musicians thumping away.

Continued on next page



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TRAVEL

...splendours of Ouro Prêto, a gold-mining town with a few baroque surprises

BRAZIL FACT FILE

■ Summer in Brazil is from December to March. In Rio the temperature rarely drops below 28C but it can be very hot in high summer. Autumn and spring are still warm enough to swim. A light jacket might be needed at night in winter. Sunshine and blue skies can be relied on at all times.

■ Varig Brazilian Airlines has five direct flights a week to Rio de Janeiro from Heathrow, Wednesday and Thursday flights are non-stop, while Friday, Saturday and Sunday flights are via São Paulo. Return flights cost from about £620.

■ Copacabana Palace, Avenida Atlântica, 1702 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil CEP 22021-001 (00 55 21 255 7070, fax 00 55 21 255 7330). On the promenade facing Copacabana beach, this impressive white-tucco edifice is Rio's most traditional and luxurious hotel. Cost per person sharing a double/twin room, room only, from £70-£100 a night. Suites from £125 per person per night. Reservations: Orient-Express Hotels 0181-568 8366.

■ Tours arranged through Classico Turismo, Vera Joppert, Av N Sra de Copacabana 1059/805, 22060-000 (00 55 21 287 3390, fax 00 55 21 521 4636).

■ Copacabana Palace and Classico tours may also be booked through Latin America Travel, 7 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6JX (0171-630 0070, fax 0171-630 9900), or Journey Latin America, 14-16 Devonshire Road, London W4 2HD (0181-747 8315, fax 0181-742 1312).

■ Parque das Aves (Bird Park), Rodovia das Cataratas is situated near to the Iguazu Falls National Park (00 55 21 523 1007).

■ Casa do Pontal, 3295 Estrada do Pontal (off Avenida Sernambetiba) (00 55 21 437 6278/226 35-40/226 4914). Open Sat-Sun 2-6pm; about £2.30. Allow about half a day for the visit.



The statue of Christ which overlooks Guanabara Bay and the city of Rio from the top of Corcovado mountain

families at dinner, school-rooms, shoemakers, even journalists sucking their pens are depicted in loving detail.

Your second part of call must be the Iguazu Falls, one of the wonders of the world. This is no mere waterfall any more than the Sahara is a pile of sand. A two-hour flight from Rio gets you to Iguazu, which sits on the frontiers of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. On the Brazilian side, we approached the falls from below by large rubber boat with two big engines. Although clad in what felt like large condoms, we were soaked to the skin by the time we'd white-watered it up to the nearest fall. The pilot seemed to sense a game crowd in our boat. Thrills? We had ten in buckets.

On the Argentinian side is

the spot where *The Mission* was filmed. This is jaw-droppingly awesome. Huge flocks of martens wheel into the spray for their morning shower, looping in and out of the almost permanent rain-fog. Nothing can prepare you for the sight. Our guide says there are three or four suicides a year here: a spectacular and very certain way to go.

Near Iguazu is a bird park which I felt duty bound to visit in honour of Julia, my Amazon parrot. Opened in 1994, it is a feast of feathers in their natural habitat. Flotillas of butterflies (there are 3,500 different species) accompany us everywhere we go, alighting all over us, six or eight per head in places. Some of the birds are nearly as friendly

and numerous. Talk about Eden... The third part of call must be Ouro Prêto, an exquisite, baroque-style gold-mining town in the mountains about 480km northeast of Rio. You fly into Belo Horizonte from Rio (one hour) and then take a two-hour bus or taxi ride. But it is pure joy when you get there.

I have recently been drawn to it by reading the letters of the American poet Elizabeth Bishop who lived in Ouro Prêto. "Here where all the world still stops," she wrote in one of her poems (*Under the Window, Ouro Prêto*), and while more lories thunder past it than when she was there in the late 1960s and early 1970s, her house Casa Mariana still clings to the side of the mountain she described so vividly in her letters. As I

sat in a nearby bar downing my *caipirinha* and watching night fall over this blessed valley of 45,000 people and 20 gilded churches, the moon rose, and I wished I too could write poetry. Around every corner in Ouro Prêto a shock of beauty lies in wait. Built along the sides of a valley, the painted houses hang off the sides; the churches soar above it all. Aleijadinho, (a brutal nickname meaning "little cripple") was the famous sculptor responsible for much of the town's baroque decoration.

For me, three words sum up the essence of Brazil: *Caipirinha* (Kaip-eer-ee-er) - a drink more potent, moreish and gratifying than anything you'll ever taste. First acquire a bottle of Cachaça (cache-arse-er), a sugar cane alcohol costing about £17 in Soho or

New York, as well as for a few dollars in every *barzinho* in Brazil. Next come limes; lemons won't do. Cut them into eighths and place five or six in the bottom of a glass. Add a heaped teaspoon of caster sugar, crush with a pestle or blunt instrument. Splish a generous amount of cachaça into the mixture and fill with broken ice. Drink and repeat.

The second word is *Jeito* or *Jeitinho* (jay-toe or jay-teen-yeo), a word you need to get around Brazil. It means "a way", as in "There must be a way to jump this queue, park this car and so on". *Jeito* is a bit of charm, a lot of patience, and a ton of *chutzpah*. You can acquire it, as opposed to being born with it, and after a few weeks it will have magically become part of your basic equipment. A couple of books

will help you get around: *Rio: The Guide* by Christopher Pickard and *How to be a Carioca: The Alternative Guide for the Tourist in Rio* by Priscilla Ann Goslin.

And the last word is *Saudades* (sow-dah-dez), which there isn't a word for in English. They are wistful longings more powerful than nostalgia, and are felt both for people and places; crucially for Brazil when you leave. Someone told me they also include "might have been", which adds another twist to the knife in the heart. I'm feeling them right now. Only a *caipirinha* might assuage the pain. Or perhaps two.

LIZ CALDER

The author was a guest of Varig Airlines and the Copacabana Palace Hotel.

An Ernest look at life

There is a scene in Ernest Hemingway's memoir of Paris, *A Moveable Feast*, where he sits in his attic room at Rue Descartes, his pen iced to a halt by the cold. He considers buying kindling and wood at the corner shop, but worries that the fire may not take and his limited money will be squandered. Instead, he walks out into the rain.

"I walked past the Lycée Henri Quatre and the ancient church of St-Etienne-du-Mont and the windswept Place du Pantheon and cut in for shelter to the right and finally came out on the lee side of the Boulevard St-Michel and on past the Cluny and the Boulevard St-Germain until I came to a good café on the Place St-Michel." There, the starving artist who could not afford firewood orders *café au lait*. Then a rum St James. Then another. Then a dozen oysters and a carafe of dry white wine.

Today, the 5th arrondissement where Hemingway lived in the 1920s is more the haunt of the tourist classes than the writing classes. The house at 39 Rue Descartes, where Hemingway wrote and the poet Paul Verlaine died, now houses a tacky bistro.

However, on a summer morning when the streets are quiet, there is nothing better than mooching round Hem's patch (as his mates called him) and following routes like the one above. The 5th was also home to George Orwell, James Joyce and Jean Rhys. In the cafés nearby, like the *Closerie des Lilas* and the *Selester* at Montparnasse, the ever-changing cast expanded to include Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ford Madox Ford. Many were refugees from prohibition in America. Although Hemingway wrote in Rue Descartes, he lived with his first wife at 74 Rue Cardinal Lemoine "in a two-room

flat that had no hot water and no inside toilet facilities except an antiseptic container, not uncomfortable to anyone who was used to a Michigan outdoor house". None of the writers was bothered by lack of comfort. In 1938, Orwell moved in down the road at 6 Rue du Pot-de-Fer. He says the concierge in the equally grubby hotel opposite once came out to berate one of her residents for squashing bed bugs on the wallpaper: "Why can't you throw them out of the window like everyone else?"

There are two ways of discovering Hemingway country: The first and easiest is to join Paris Walking Tours for their two-hour trip round the area. The guide, Oriol Caine, includes the other landmarks on the hill *Sainte Genevieve* like the Pantheon and the church of St-Etienne, and quotes from the various authors. The walk is amusing and thorough.

For the more independent, a copy of *Paris - A Literary Companion* will take you to essential sites. It includes maps and quotes from the works of many authors which can be read on the doorstep or in the café in question.

The Hemingway addict must carry a copy of *A Moveable Feast*. As he notes: "Paris was always worth it and you received return for whatever you brought to it. But this is how Paris was in the early days when we were very poor and very happy."



KATE MUIR

Paris - A Literary Companion by Ian Littlewood (Horn Murray publishers, £11.99). Paris Walking Tours, Hemingway's Paris 160F, 48 02 21 40.

August kitsch special: Festival d'été de la chanson populaire française, 8.30pm and 10.30pm daily at Théâtre Montmartre-Galabru (42 23 15 85).

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JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

A la carte holidays

EXPERIENCED long-haul travellers are demanding more flexibility and independence in the choice of itineraries and accommodation...

For 1996-97, Cuba, Chile, cruises from the Maldives, Phuket and Bali are being introduced...

Battle tours

ON THE 40th anniversary of the 1956 Allied landings at Suez, 'Hotels' Tours (01304 612248) is running a ten-night trip...

Japan saver

THERE ARE savings of £500 on a ten-day tour to Japan departing on September 13; the tour, which includes flights, accommodation...

and visits to Tokyo, Mount Fuji, Kyoto, Osaka and a journey on the bullet train, costs £1,290 from Japan Experience (01703 730830).

Truffle hunt

IT'S THEORETICALLY possible to make a profit on the Alternative Travel Group's (01865 513333) Umbrian truffle hunting holidays in October and December...

Golfing orgy

GOLFING specialists Longshot Golf (01730 230361) is offering an Around the World in 30 Days golfing orgy in October 1997...

Bonn chance

AN EIGHT-DAY Beethoven Marathon is being held in the composer's native Bonn from September 21 with a grand finale of 31 hours of non-stop music...

British conductor Roger Norrington and the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra are taking part. Moswin Tours (0116 271 9922) offers three-night B&B breaks from £273, including flights, and can arrange all concert tickets.

Thai down

NEW ROUTES for the Eastern and Oriental Express (0171-805 5100) include Kanchanaburi in western Thailand and the bridge over the River Kwai this autumn...

Children free

MORE THAN 700 hotels and guest houses in Austria offer free bedrooms for children under 12 during the Family Autumn period between September 1 and November 3...

Late choices

TRAVELLERS seeking last-minute bargain holidays where accommodation is allocated on arrival (the type of holiday that probably generates more complaints from travellers than any other) will be able to pre-select certain requirements on First Choice's new Late Choice scheme...



Enjoy the Austrian Tirol and save money: 700 hotels and guest houses offer free rooms for children under 12 in the autumn

Families, Couples, or even Naturist, with easy access to nudist beaches.

Cape escape

A NINE-NIGHT holiday in October based in Hermanus, the

whaling capital of South Africa, includes land-based whale watching. The inquisitive mammals play in the surf a stone's-throw from the village.

The trip includes tours of Cape Town, the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve and a two-day drive

along the coast. The price of £1,485 from Discover the World (01737 218800) includes return flights via Amsterdam from Heathrow, or any UK regional airport, all accommodation, some meals, various excursions and whale-watching trips.

CORRECTION Educational Visits and Exchanges is at 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN (0171-389 4004) and Regent Holidays is 15 John Street, Bristol BS1 2HR (0117-921 1711) not as published in Weekend of August 10.

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 481 1989 (TRADE)

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0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE) FAX: 0171 481 9313

Grid of travel advertisements for various regions including France, Italy, Spain, USA & Canada, Cornwall & Devon, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Includes details on hotels, tours, and special offers.

1 week in Spain from just £39 per person per week. Apartments on the Costa Brava. Includes a table with prices for different dates and a contact number.

The Nile Bike Ride in aid of Mencap. The experience of a lifetime. 500km bike ride, Luxor-Aswan-Luxor. Includes contact information for bookings.

45 mins each way. Includes details for U.K. HOLIDAYS and CORNWALL & DEVON. Features a large graphic of a car and text about lake district holidays.

Pennruddock Hotel. THE PENNRUDDOCK IS A FRIENDLY FAMILY HOTEL, OPEN EASTER TO OCTOBER. Includes contact information for bookings.

Stena Lynx. £49 (5 day return) and £98 (6+ day return) on selected summer sailings. Includes contact information for Stena Line.

Summer Delight £79.50 per night and your third night free. Includes details about the luxury five-star standard hotel and contact information for Sleafly Hall.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom center of the page.

CHESS

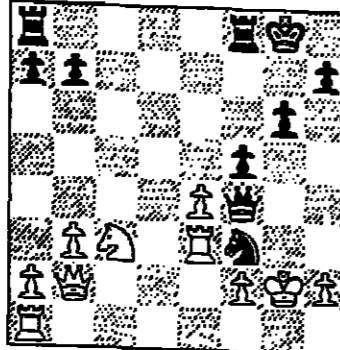
by Raymond Keene

British Brilliance

THE BRITISH Championship in Nottingham finished last night, but of the 341 games played, probably the most spectacular was played in the very first round.

It is every player's dream to hunt the opponent's king to destruction and deliver checkmate after a chase spanning the entire board. For Andrew Martin this dream came spectacularly true.

White: Tyson Morduc
Black: Andrew Martin
Sicilian Defence

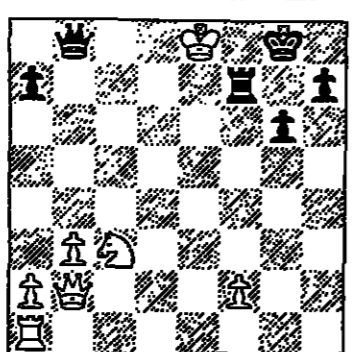


With this move White must have hoped to gain a temporary respite but now... Martin sacrifices his knight to drive the white king into the open.

Also possible is 21... Rad8 to cut off the white king in mid-board, but the game as played, which leads to a forced win with checks, certainly cannot be faulted.

The white king cannot retreat as that would cost at least the queen. 25 Ke4 b5+. A neat point which closes the noose around the white king. 26 Nx6 in response would expose the white queen to capture.

26 Kb4 Qd4+ 27 Kb5. If 27 Ka3, Qd6+ 28 b4 Qa6+ 29 Kh3 Qa4 mate.



Checkmate. An astounding final position, with White's king checkmated having travelled from the kingside via the centre to the queen's flank and then journeyed to the very heart of Black's position before expiring.

WINNING MOVE

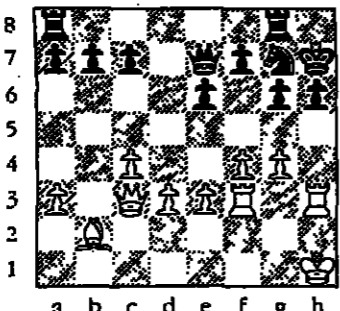
By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from the game Haider - Kahler, Vienna 1959.

With his pressure on the long diagonal and along the h-file White has very promising play. How did he now make the most of this?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a *British Chess Magazine* publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Rd6

Last week's winners: P L Vasil, Aberdulai, Neath; C Martin, Pontyclun, R C Taff; L Hilton, Sutton Coldfield.



READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced with permission from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

PUNCHLINE



The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (13), Weekend Gamus Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 21.



The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by P. Eytet of North Walsham, Norfolk

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HAMMADA

- a. A Muslim feast
- b. Bare rock
- c. A Libyan market

MONADNOCK

- a. A rock plant
- b. The Huron peace pipe
- c. A steep mountain

HEPBURN

- a. To overact
- b. Transcription of Japanese
- c. To procrastinate

MACHER

- a. A VIP
- b. A hand axe
- c. Aggressively masculine

Answers on page 16

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

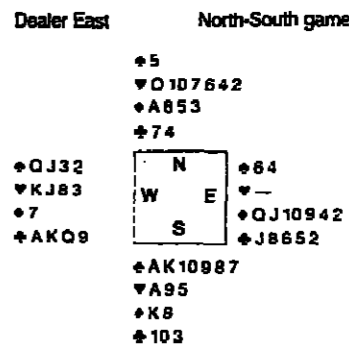
HUMPTY DUMPTY told Alice: "When I use a word it means just what I choose it to mean." Some players have a similar attitude over their signals. Look at East's problem on these two layouts. East is defending a No-Trump contract and needs four more tricks; his partner has just switched to the ace:

- (i) A led 10876 KQJ2
- (ii) A led 10876 J432

In the first case East clearly has to play the two - any higher one will give a fourth-round trick to dummy. Most players would realise that, and the good ones would play the two in tempo. But let us assume in the second case an unlikely switch would be the contract. If West nevertheless continues the original suit after East has played the two, there are players who will say after the hand "didn't you see my two?". They are guilty of Humpty Dumpty Syndrome (HDS) - they want the two to be a come-on in layout I, and to be discouraging in layout II.

A different form of HDS occurred on this hand from the 1996 European Youth Championships (see top of next column). At one table in the match between Denmark and Sweden, East opened Two Clubs, showing a hand with at least nine cards in clubs and another suit. South overcalled Two Spades, which was passed out.

At the other table East's opening bid of Four Diamonds worked well (in junior bridge, Three Diamonds would be considered pitifully wet). South overcalled Four Spades and West's double ended the auction.



Contract: a) Two Spades by South b) Four Spades, doubled
Lead: ace of clubs

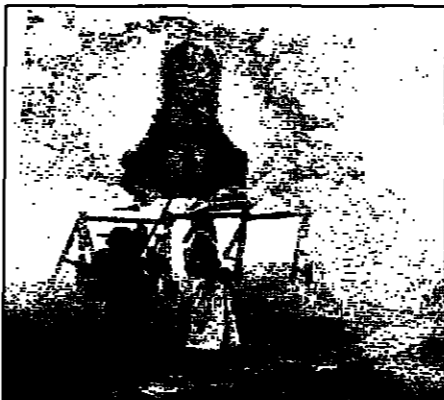
At both tables the lead was a top club, and at both tables East played the jack. And at both tables the second trick was ♠9, 7, 8, 10.

Obviously both Wests had read the jack of clubs as showing the ten, and each of them wanted to put their partner in to push back a heart. But each East had chosen the meaning they wanted - on this occasion, the jack of clubs was to be a Mckerney for a heart switch. Their partners didn't see it that way, correctly in my view. Unless it is clear that a signal is suit preference, it should be interpreted in a natural way. Thus in this case the jack either showed the ten, or conceivably a doubleton (possible in the second auction).

What each East should have done was to follow with the two on the first round, showing an odd number of clubs. Then on the second round of the suit they could play the jack, which would now be a suit-preference for a heart. Thus declarer could have been held to seven tricks, rather than the embarrassing nine he actually took.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



The Monty Python team goes in search of the Holy Grail on 7th Level CD-Rom

NOT EVEN a biker's leather uniform could save you from scratches in Road Rash. Sega Saturn's masterful motorcycle racer. You start in 15th place and all that's keeping you from first position are a bunch of awkward obstacles, including pedestrians, fire hydrants and oncoming cars. Come off your bike at speed and you fly through the air before unceremoniously crashing onto the pavement.

Before you can rejoin the race, you must dart back to your crumpled cycle and remount. Further hazards come from your fellow competitors who will gladly employ fists and iron bars to noggle you - so you have to do it to them before they do it to you.

Also to be avoided - by outrunning them if you can - are over-zealous motorcycle cops.

What separates the Hondas from the Harley Davidsons in Road Rash are the stunning photorealistic backgrounds. Painted in inviting pastel shades, the city and seascapes are superbly detailed but most dreamy is the undulating straight road carving its way through America's Napa Valley. Mankind seems to have been on the road for the best part of a thousand years in search of the legendary Holy Grail - the sacred cup supposedly used by Jesus Christ at the last supper. First on its trail were the knights of King Arthur, and more recently, in the mid-Seventies, it was the Python team when they brought us *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Now the best parts of the film have been reworked to form the basis of a CD-Rom game from 7th Level - *Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail*. Frankly, any title which boldly declares "No Refunds" in an early screen can't be all bad.

The game is set in England in AD 932 with God charging a hapless King Arthur to find the bowl which brims with magical, mysterious powers. Obedient Arthur, accompanied by his faithful servant Patsy, rounds up the lads, starting with Lancelot and Galahad, and off they all trot - to the sound of clomping coconuts but without real horses.

A succession of encounters, challenges and puzzles follow, all boasting a distinctive Pythonesque flavour. Some scenes must be

solved if you are to head onward and upward while others are little more than a shallow distraction, such as Castle Anthrax inhabited by sex-starved ladies, where you can play the naughty-but-nice Spank the Virgin game. Alternatively, when you encounter the mythical Black Knight, you can challenge him to a fight and soon find yourself slicing him into little

pieces. Other nonsense games include the self-explanatory Catch the Cow and Burn the Witch.

Computer games based on Python adventures have until now had a chequered history. It seemed at one point that anyone could buy up Python material and proceed unchecked with any spin-off which came to mind, good or bad. Even 7th Level was guilty of this a year or two ago with an earlier spin-off - its *Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time* which, to my mind, a waste of time and a complete waste of money.

However, this Grail game has had much more thought put into it. Eric Idle serves as the title's executive producer and other members of the Python team contributing voices for the CD-Rom translation include Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam - but, sadly, not John Cleese.

The game looks and feels exceptionally good. The animations, sound effects and music score all combine to produce well-honed computer entertainment. Some of the games are simple, some even

fairly bland, but the humour levels are set high enough to carry the game's low-lying.

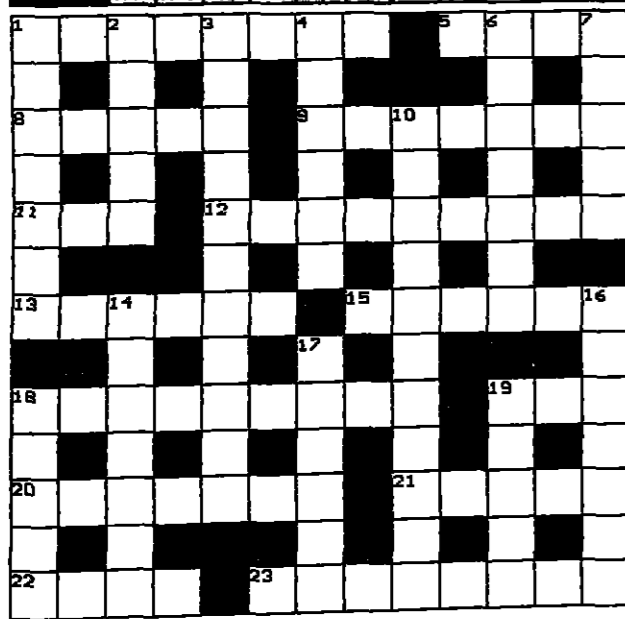
The reward for finally tracking down the elusive grail is a scene from the film which originally ended up on the cutting room floor - King Brian the Wild.

The Holy Grail trail is also the basis for another CD-Rom computer game, *Azrael's Tear - Search for the Holy Grail*. This is a clunky point-and-click adventure set in a 3-D environment in which you play a futuristic chief charged with finding the cup in a vast underground temple. You start by advancing perhaps too slowly along dank corridors in search of clues.

Despite some fine sound effects, the game layout is run-of-the-mill and a fiddle to master. Nor are the graphics especially clear, brown being the predominant colour of most of the corridors. It's a shame because if *Azrael's Tear* looked and behaved as good as it sounds, you could stay with it for hours at a time. As it is, the chances of mouse-clicking your way to the bitter end are slim.

And now for something completely different - Catch-phrase from the *Monty Python's Flying Circus* television series (1969-74).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 863

- ACROSS
- 1 Stone-slinging device (8)
- 5 Gulp (4)
- 8 Landed country house (5)
- 9 Exam certificate (7)
- 11 Part of circumference (3)
- 12 Malicious (letter) (6-3)
- 13 *Cornair* (in distress) (6)
- 15 Cart; heap over tomb (6)
- 18 Pasternak novel (2,7)
- 19 Edgar Allan - US writer (3)
- 20 Nursery (7)
- 21 Impression, picture (5)
- 22 Long, hard journey (4)
- 23 Hamburgers etc (4,4)
- DOWN
- 1 Range; surround (7)
- 2 Keynote; fortifying drink (5)
- 3 Objectivity; vista (11)
- 4 - van Beethoven (6)
- 6 Barefaced lie (7)
- 7 Wood texture; tiny unit of weight (5)
- 10 Leading character (11)
- 14 Diamond shape; pastille (7)
- 16 Today and tomorrow, say (7)
- 17 Meditation phrase (6)
- 18 Coin, its loss Shylack lamented (5)
- 19 Instrument, also plays forte (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 862
ACROSS: 2 Colander 6 Tundra 8 Ground 9 Faintly 10 Cadre
12 Hammerbeam 16 Tongue-tied 18 Rebel 20 Stay in 21 Starve
22 Native 23 Oil paint
DOWN: 1 Runaway 2 Cauldron 3 Africa 4 Druid 5 Redden
6 Dynamic 11 Amethyst 13 Exultant 14 Relieve 15 Fresco
19 Olivia 19 Brawl

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3371: A Puzzle With A Catch by Phi

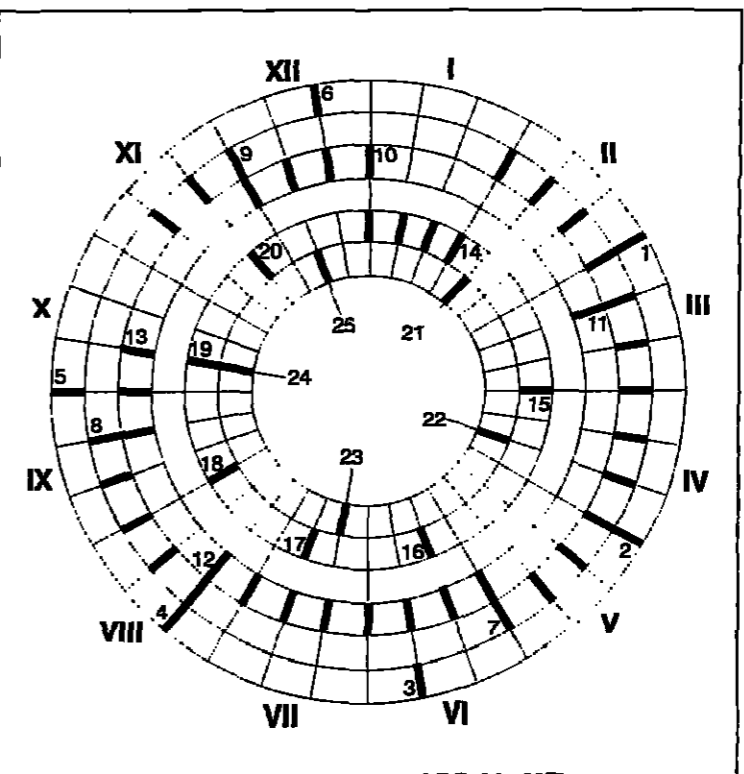
Each segment I-XII contains one unducted thematic entry (rim to centre), one entry entered normally (rim to centre) and one entered in jumbled form. The jumbled entry has a normal clue while the normal entry's clue contains a feature not required for solving, though it should not be entirely disregarded. Solvers will need to determine the location of entries within their segment by means of the circular lights, which are normally clues.

The letter in the fourth ring is common to all words in a segment. These letters, read clockwise, yield a two-word phrase, which should lead to solvers augmenting the grid. Two thematic entries are in *Collins not Chambers*.

Segments (all answers of 6 letters)

- I Lamented stake being driven into overturned seat? On the contrary. Politicians in office, with power gone, prepare to depart.
- II A lot of money's invested in filthy stuff resembling body fluids. Hold witness about nothing. Bats bartering with it will get single (not duck). Walk by, ignoring latest in elegant gear. Hangs flags round castle with King in residence. Take care of senior officer's plot.
- III Boldly with skill? Not bold. Rake the yard - not luxuriant growth.
- IV India face the attack, snatching run not stopped by English. Star GI breaking into part of church.
- V Church's plight with non-Conformist caretaker? Sorceress has inscribed Latin magic figure.
- VI Shopper without a lot of room grabbing tip of hair comb. What's mystically sage about a name - such as this one?
- VII Glaswegian under a scow taken to hospital. Patriotic women's group, one out of money in the US, to become gloomy.
- VIII Sufferer from disease (cold) makes mess when stifling only one-third of sneeze. Water-basin having almost nothing for tank.
- IX Being with naughty male close up. Letters - setter's overlooking one when on the beer.
- X Coloured, once, by being caught by college servant with only bottom covered. Stomach upset, see (though not making noises).
- XII Circular

- 1 American author's written about North Carolina's obnoxious people (6)
- 2 Inert type preferring Latin to Old Testament philosopher (5)
- 3 Kina, a drug source that's repressed in a challenging way (5)
- 4 Billy, in two Mozart works, kept back a certain flair (5)
- 5 Mild shock when swallowing fat (8)
- 6 Vessels having soldiers on board again (7)
- 7 Endless weight 1 target, keeping back enormous appetite (7)
- 8 One coming out to meet the Spanish is best in old battle (7)
- 9 Energy, note, running short at an earlier time (6)
- 10 Bribes brought into being during suspicious behaviour (7)
- 11 This, in itself, could explain Yard's air (5)
- 12 Blast half knocked over Scot (4)
- 13 Record's measures (5)
- 14 Straightens out new people, getting us to come round (6)
- 15 Aquatic organisms - number found in most of well, lake and drainage channel (7)
- 16 Discoloured swellings most of all coming from an intention to hurt people (4)
- 17 Bumer's hard to be defined by goat initially (4)
- 18 To which one could attach leash, if not hydrant? (4)
- 19 Navigation system has this port located on side of Lake (4)
- 20 Edinburgh's former hall not entirely deserted (4)
- 21 Rulers? John, say, and the present one being contained in that (7)
- 22 A year's lease is available in part of Scotland (8)
- 23 Hurries to area of turmoil with canister for riot police (9, two words)
- 24 Weapon fuel North America used round China? (6)
- 25 Trap overturned by record hedgehog-like creature (6)



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3371
In association with CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3371, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, August 29.

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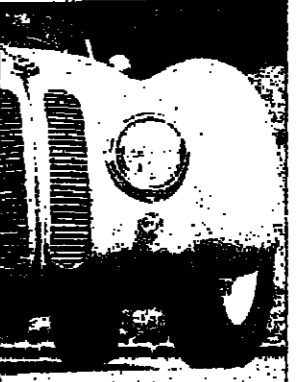
Has the car of the future already arrived?

Page 2

CAR 96

Legends of BMW take the California limelight

Page 5



SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

RK

Scooter sales have accelerated as commuters buy themselves valuable time and freedom, says Jennai Cox



Scooter converts Veronica Cefis (right) and Martine Rhoda with their new machines. Two wheels will save them both time and money, free them from public transport problems and add an element of personal security to commuting

Why commute when you can scoot?

In the desperate attempt to escape the trauma of traffic, overcrowded buses, late-ringing trains and strike-hit Tubes the British commuter has rediscovered the scooter. Travellers from Cumbria to Cornwall are buying the lightweight, runaround motorbikes so popular on the Continent. Sales of powered two-wheelers have risen every week this year, led by a new breed of multi-coloured, slick and sexy looking scooters designed to attract the fashion-conscious and those who have never considered bike riding before. Sales to women have risen 20 per cent, with many choosing step-through models which can be ridden easily in a skirt. Retailers say interest jumped after Noel Gallagher of Oasis and Jonathan Ross were seen riding them. But the days of mods and nostalgia for their Lambretta culture are past: the scooter buyer is now more likely to be a city worker than a teenager. According to Ian Wallock, a partner at London's Metropolis Motorcycles, "They are professionals and are making scooters more acceptable. It's not a cranky, old-fashioned form of transport anymore. People want to

buy back the time they spend travelling." Martine Rhoda, who was inspired to buy a silver Piaggio Sfera 50cc last week by a colleague, worked out that switching from the Tube and car will save her 11 days a year, and "a fortune". She says, "All my friends with scooters say it's a good way of de-stressing your life and saving money. I feel so liberated." Martine who lives in Fulham has to be at her desk in a City investment bank by 7.30 each morning. Using a scooter has cut her journey time from one hour to 25 minutes. Alison Krug swapped her Travelcard for a yellow Piaggio Typhoon 80cc last January to get to work in North London. "Everyone is so friendly, they stop to chat at traffic lights after you've zoomed past the queuing cars. In the Tube everyone just sits and stares," she says. Women like the anonymity of a crash helmet and being able to travel when they choose. Sarah Waghorn, promotions art director for Elle magazine, bought her black Piaggio Sfera 80cc a month ago to avoid having to hang around train stations. "I have to work late sometimes and the bike gives me more freedom," she



Scooters are the ideal way to negotiate city rush-hour traffic

says, "It's changed my life dramatically - everyone who lives in a city should have one." At around £1,500 to buy, £70 to insure and £3 a week to run, the scooter should be just another household utensil, claims Honda's Graham Sanderson. "It should be as well as, not instead of a car," he says. "Commuters spend hundreds of pounds a year on rail tickets too, and at the end of the year have nothing to show for it." Safety can still deter many attracted to the mobility of a motorbike. But

riders will want to be taken more seriously, says Dr Jeremy Vanke, head of public policy at the RAC. Bristol became the first city last year to allow motorbikes to use bus lanes. Some retailers reported a subsequent 25 per cent increase in scooter sales. Despite bus drivers' concerns, there have been no accidents and its success has attracted inquiries from local authorities in Norwich and Norfolk, and Lothian in Scotland. Like many newcomers to scooters, customers at Streetbike Motorcycles in Dudley, West Midlands, say apart from the economics, riding them is also fun. The director of Streetbike, Gary Marshall, says: "It's being seen as a way of bringing the enjoyment back into driving." Richard Artus, director of property developers Urban Spaces in south-east London, bought a Piaggio Sfera 80cc three months ago and says the word scooter sums up the experience. "It's all about scooting round the city on a bike that feels like a toy. It's easy, light, clean, you can wear a suit on them and they're fun. I would never think of driving a big bike again."

On two wheels, pages 3, 12

SCOOTER FACTS

SALES of scooters in Britain are up almost 40 per cent on last year. So far 4,000 have been sold compared with 2,900 for the whole of 1995.

DURING their heyday in the late 1950s, up to 100,000 scooters a year were sold. Sales declined with the rise of the small car Lambretta, the market leader, closed its factory here in 1972. Sales then picked up again during the 1980s.

THE FIRST 50cc scooter on the market was the front-wheel-drive Velo-Solex, manufactured in France in the late 1940s. The first sold in Britain was a Vespa in 1948.

THIS YEAR is the 50th anniversary of the Vespa, Italian for "wasp" it was designed by Enrico Piaggio who wanted to provide low-cost mobility for the masses after the Second World War.

PRICES start at around £1,100 and go up to just under £3,000 for a luxury model.

TOP-SELLING scooters include the Piaggio Typhoon 50cc, and 125cc and the Yamaha SR 125cc.

STIRLING Moss, Bono of U2 and Tom Conran all own scooters.

A SURE sign that times do not change: in 1965 it was reported that nearly three-quarters of Britain's one million scooter and moped owners used them to save time and lazes when commuting.

THERE are an estimated 75,000 scooter riders in Britain today. About 1,000 enthusiasts regularly take part in rallies.

SCOOTERING magazine is to produce a special supplement with the October edition including road tests of the newest scooters on the market.

Despite expensive car alarms and immobilising systems, UK car theft remains the worst in Europe.

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The Government's fight against Brussels over VAT on bridge-crossing could backfire because of its own policies

Rotten toll of privatisation

A lorry driver incandescent with rage is a sight worth seeing, provided his ire is not directed at you. The notion that only Italians and other Mediterranean types roll their eyes, wave their arms and generally behave as if close to meltdown is soon dispelled once you corner a couple of British truckers and start feeding in key words.

Caravans is one subject that will get them going. The tachograph is another. BMW drivers will also do it. But the subject that guarantees an instant rise in temperature is bridge tolls. Mention them and you have lit the blue touch-paper.

The latest cause of distress is a proposal from Brussels that we should charge VAT on bridge tolls. Brussels loves VAT, which as you know is a tax collected free of charge by businesses and other ordinary mortals (including me) on behalf of the government. The EU argues that a toll bridge is a business like any other, rather than a public service, as the Government claims.

The matter is now going to the European Court and the Govern-

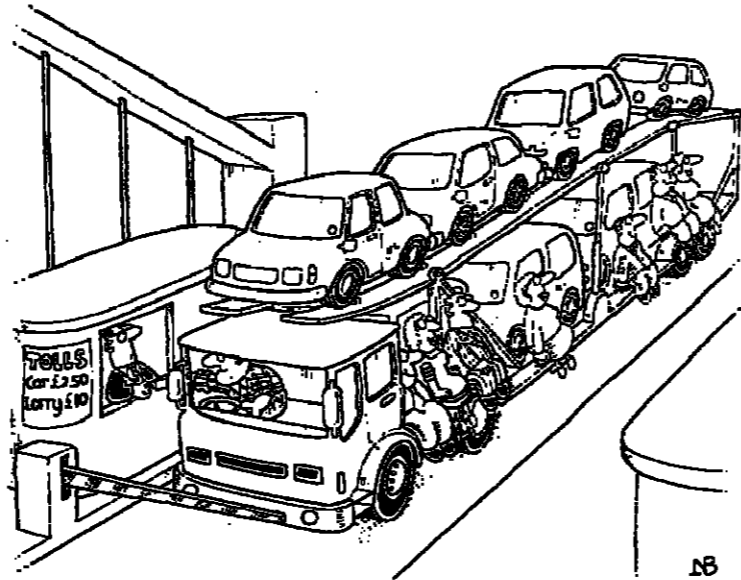
DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

ment is right to take it there. One of the crossings involved is that over the River Severn into Wales, which now consists of two bridges.

The present tolls on this crossing are nearly as daft as the ones on the Skye Bridge. Cars pay £3.80, which is more than enough, but not completely outrageous given that it covers both directions. But lorries have to pay £11.50 for the return trip. Adding VAT would make it £13.51. Lorry drivers I spoke to this week



regard this as a levy too far and they are right. Already, many HGV drivers coming from the Midlands and the North are under instructions to avoid the bridge by cutting through north Gloucestershire. VAT will only increase that number.

If Brussels is fond of VAT it is also immensely fond of the environment. Directives about trees and sewage pour like a torrent from the EU, yet its approach to bridge tolls contradicts its environment policy. Avoid-

ing the Severn crossings involves huge lorries thundering along totally unsuitable roads, many of which are hardly fit to carry cars. Imposing VAT will increase traffic, polluting villages, causing more delays for car drivers and threatening the health of pedestrians.

If all this suggests that we can once again get out the Euro flag and tear it to shreds, a complication occurs to me. For it can be argued that in the matter of bridge tolls and VAT, the

British Government risks being hoist by its own petard.

If the Severn bridges had been built by the Government, it would be a simple matter to argue that they are a public service. Just like any other road. But this is not the case. A private company owns both the crossings and is allowed to charge tolls for a fixed number of years.

This makes the bridges part of a commercial business, arguably subject to VAT. In which case, there are far wider implications. For is not the Government at present keenly researching ways and means of charging tolls on motorways? Indeed it is.

So far there has been no mention of VAT in the calculations. But if the European Court rules that a bridge run by a private company must have its tolls subject to VAT, I see no difference between that and a motorway stretch run by a private company that charges a toll. And what about schemes such as the Birmingham northern relief road, which involves 'shadow tolls'? This plan would have the road built by a private company which, instead of charging each vehicle, is paid a toll by the Government based on the number of vehicles using the road.

Is this a private business? If so, we could be faced with the Government paying VAT to the company and the company handing it back to the Customs and Excise. It's enough to make you incandescent with rage.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

- London
M1 junction 2 (A1, Hendon) slip road flyovers connecting the M1 and the A1 closed for long-term emergency repairs.
A4 Chiswick; major roadworks on the Great West Road with traffic down to two lanes during the day and a single lane overnight between the end of the M4 elevated section and Sutton Court Road.
A223 Orpington; major roadworks by the war memorial with various restrictions in operation. No entry to Sevenoaks Road from the roundabout.
A217 Wandsworth; roadworks at the roundabout on the south of Wandsworth Bridge. Delays on all approaches.
● South East
M4 junctions 12-14; overnight lane closures both ways, down to a single lane at times.
A4010 Princes Risborough; major roadworks at the junction with Duke Street, Longwick Road, The Aylesbury Road, and New Road with temporary lights.
A420 Cumnor Hill; off-peak lane closures in both directions with a 40mph speed restriction.
M20 junction 8; roadworks with one lane closed.
A255 Folkestone; width restrictions on Canterbury Road.
M25 junctions 6-10; major widening work between Godstone and the A3, with restrictions and contraflows.
● South West
M5 junctions 17-20; contraflow between Bristol West and Clevedon with a 50mph speed limit over the Avonmouth Bridge.
A38 Gloucester; major roadworks at the Cole Avenue roundabout. Regular delays.
A38 West Huntspill; temporary lights will cause long delays on Bleak Bridge. Major delays on the August 19.
A3027 Taunton; temporary lights on North Street.
A3102 Swindon; roadworks at the Mannington roundabout. Lane closure on the approaches from Great Western Way and Wootton Bassett Road.
● Midlands and East Anglia
A632 Near Chesterfield; roadworks on Langwith Road at Belsaver Lane.
A516 Derby; single lane off-peak between Manor Hospital and A511 Kingsway, with the road closed on Sunday.
A6 Leicester; roadworks on London Road between Mayfield Road Island and Stoughton.
A38 Outside Burton; contraflow between Brantson and Barton, with diversions.
A46 Kenilworth bypass; major work near the A429 and B4115 roundabout, with contraflow, speed restrictions and lane closures.
● Northern Ireland
A2 Carrickfergus; restrictions on Lane Road at the junction with Rawbrae Road.
M1 junction 10-11; traffic down to the hard shoulder.
A3 Portadown; work on Northway at junction with Mill Avenue.
A22 Downpatrick; Old Belfast Road closed from Strangford Road to Quoile Road. Diversions.
A49 Downpatrick; temporary lights on Maghera Road on the Lisburn side of Martin's Quarry.
A2 Ballykelly; temporary lights on Main Street.

Vaughan Freeman on the pick of past and planned designs shown by a new study

Cars we want, we won't get

THE FUTURE

Carless city centres, a clampdown to get petrol-driven cars off the road, and an age of smaller, "greener" high-tech cars driven by older motorists, is the tomorrow's world vision of motoring drawn up in a new report published this week.

Within 20 years electric and gas-powered vehicles will be common, particularly among public-service fleets such as buses, it forecasts. Many city centres will ban cars completely, and in other areas only fume-free cars, such as those that are battery-powered, will be allowed anywhere near town boundaries.

Cars, such as the 10ft-long Mini-sized Ford Ka, launched later this year, and the Vauxhall Maxx concept-car, will get ever smaller.

Despite their minuscule proportions however, such cars will be vital in a world in which up to 30 million cars, as opposed to today's 20million, will be sharing our roads — and they will have all the comfort and equipment once only associated with larger limousines.

They will routinely feature advanced technology in their cabins, including radar-controlled collision avoidance systems and infra-red sensors to make motoring at night and in fog much safer.

The report, by Warranty Holdings Group, the UK's largest supplier of used-vehicle breakdown warranty programmes for leading car manufacturers, sought the opinions of leading figures in the motor industry worldwide.

Warranty Holdings Group managing director Peter Head says: "Around 2015 will be a turning point in the history of the car. We will be on the verge of a new age of motoring, in which electric and other alternatively powered vehicles are beginning to make an impact.

"You simply won't be able to take a large gas-guzzler into the centre of most big cities, so designers will be coming up with alternative vehicles which get around the problem. Consequently, we'll see a mixture of smaller petrol-driven, electric and hybrid vehicles on the road, although a highly fuel-efficient petrol engine will be the most common form of propulsion.

"The car of tomorrow will be equipped with a host of high-tech navigational, entertainment and safety aids. It will be quieter and more comfortable than the car of today, with a higher degree of specification and finish.

"Male dominance will decrease. The field of car design, traditionally a male preserve, will see a change in the number of female designers, resulting in subtle but significant influences which will contribute towards a friendlier, more practical and less macho image for the car."

Professor Garel Rhys of the Cardiff Business School, says in the report: "Engine fuel injection systems will be far more frugal than anything that exists at the moment. It will be like putting a pipette of petrol into the cylinders, rather than just throwing it in by the bucket-load, which is almost what we do at the moment when you compare it with what could be possible."

While petrol cars become more efficient and less polluting, electric cars will evolve for use in areas where traffic is more dense, says Ken Greenley, head of transportation design at London's Royal College of Art: "At 70mph on the highway, the average petrol car is pretty efficient. Where it is useless is when it is stuck in a traffic jam or ticking



Mini and micro-sized vehicles such as the 10ft-long Ford Ka, launched later this year, will herald the revolution



Vauxhall is also pursuing the trend with its Maxx concept car, but far more radical vehicles are expected to emerge

DREAM ON

E-type top of great cars poll

ACTRESSES and bishops have, it seems, more in common than dubious music-hall jokes and saucy seaside postcards. Both love cars, and often it is the same ones that excite their interest.

Actress Fiona Fullerton and her Grace the Bishop of Sodor and Man, Noel DeBroy Jones, might move in different circles, but they share a keen interest in cars. Both are enamoured of that icon of luxury motoring, the Rolls-Royce, as the car they would most like to own.

They both agree that the epitome of automotive beauty is embodied in the classically English lines of a Jaguar. For now the Bishop makes do with a Peugeot, while Fiona Fullerton has a claret-red Jaguar XJ6.

Roads minister John Watts (usually in a black Jaguar XJ), actress Jenny Seagrove (a Mercedes-Benz 190E), and Barbican Centre director John Tusa share the dream of a sensational Mercedes-Benz Gull-Wing SL.

Junior Transport Minister John Bowis drives a humble Vauxhall Cavalier, but his dream car is the new Aston Martin DB7, and the Lamborghini Countach from Italy the design he most admires. The Italian connec-

tion is strong for his predecessor, Steven Norris, usually seen at the wheel of a Jaguar, but who most admires the Ferrari. Performance is also a key factor in the choice of his favourite car of all time, the Bentley Turbo R.

THE WARRANTY Holdings Group survey found that Formula One driver David Coulthard's unlikely first vehicle was a Mercedes 508 diesel van, while the Bishop of Rochester first took to the road at the wheel of an MG Midget sports car, although he now has a car more usually associated with men of the cloth — a Rover saloon.

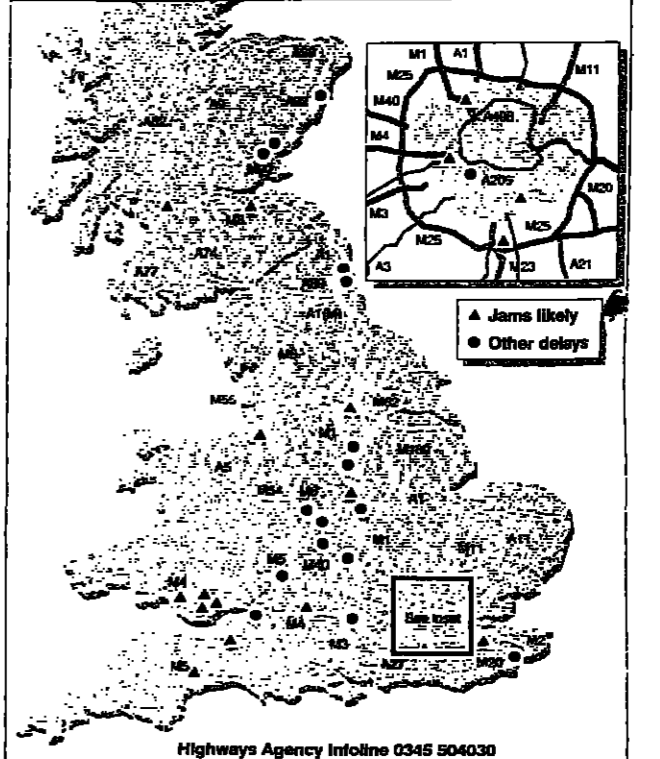
Designer Sir Terence Conran, whose own cars include a black Porsche 911, and a yellow Renault Twingo, first drove a Ford Thames van. Sir Terence cannot decide whether he would most like to own a VW Beetle or the Porsche 911, "two cars at opposite ends of the price spectrum, but united by the same designer".

Among 300 people questioned, the Jaguar E-Type was acclaimed as the most popular car design of all time. Second was the Mercedes-Benz Gull-Wing, followed by the Citroën DS saloon.



Fiona Fullerton and the Bishop of Sodor and Man

MAJOR ROADWORKS



NEWS IN BRIEF

Endurance fun

If you fancy driving across Europe through Syria, Jordan, Israel, Egypt and on to Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa then now is the time to sign up for the London-Cairo-Cape Town Reliability Trial and Adventure Drive. The event, to be held in June and July 1998, promises to be one of the greatest motoring adventures yet. It is being organised by John Brown, the man behind LE JCC, the Land's End to John O'Groats classic car trial, and Fred Gallagher, three times winner of the challenging East African Safari. The journey is expected to take 32 days. Details from: 01856 833505.

Big Suzi

Suzuki's largest passenger car yet, the Baleno saloon, has been given a facelift and a new 1.8-litre aluminium engine. Standard specification includes anti-lock brakes, side impact protection, central locking, twin airbags, electric windows and mirrors and power steering. Its on-the-road price is £12,020.

Green meanie

Greenpeace last week challenged the motor industry to pay more attention to the environment by unveiling its own version of Renault's Twingo, one of the continent's most popular small cars. In the Twingo Small LE (Small Intelligent Light Efficient), a supercharged two-cylinder engine of just 360cc replaces the Renault 1.24-litre unit and is claimed to deliver 75-88mpg against the 42mpg average of the production car. Corin Millais, of Greenpeace UK, said of the specially commissioned car: "If Greenpeace has been able to develop this technology, why can't the car industry, with all its expertise and experience?"

Minor fortune

Mike Fletcher, who owns a 1949 convertible which he calls "the best Morris Minor in the world", paid £25,975 for five drawings of the car by its designer Sir Alec Issigonis on Thursday. They were among 11 designs for the Minor and the Mini sold at Christie's for a total of £33,025.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans



Handwritten signature and date: John Miles 1950

Girl of motorb fires u

Noives 20

New biker Linda Galloway beats the boys at their own game on the best of today's mid-range machines

Girl on a motorbike fires up



Bandit, top, was hard to part with. The Ducati even harder

I always envied the boys next door. They had motorbikes, Suzuki 50s, and whenever my mother was out I used to climb over the wall and beg them to let me ride. But if I got caught I was in for at least a few days' grounding. Now that the threat of parental censure has receded, I have won my two-wheeled freedom, leathers and all.

Fed up with parking fines and garage fees, high road tax, maintenance charges and, most of all, traffic congestion and frayed city tempers, more and more commuters are taking to motorbikes. It is a brave move, away from the protection and comforts of modern cars.

Choosing to be a biker also means no lifts home for friends and no big impulse purchases. You learn to travel light and to wear leathers with attitude; it really is the best bet for protection, and for women it has another advantage: in helmet and leathers you are at gymnos.

What said, being a "girl on a bike" can single you out for attention, but in my experience this has been good-humoured envy from men in cars, especially if you're on something powerful. On the whole, the relationship between motorist and biker is not healthy, and irritation has a lot to do with it judging by the murderous looks I've received when nipping through gridlocked intersections.

I enrolled at a rider-training centre to learn as much as I could about safe, defensive riding — the fact that a doctor friend calls

motorcyclists "organ donors" influenced my choice. I received my Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) certificate after eight hours of tuition in the middle of a -4C freeze — a rude re-introduction to both the hazards and the drawbacks of biking. I then did a Road-Rider course — 12 hours of on and off-road tuition on a hired 125cc bike, with unlimited refresher lessons.

I spread my lessons over several weeks and met many would-be bikers. Some had provisional licences about to expire, others had always meant to but never got round to it, a few were enjoying gift-lessons and one wanted to work as a motorcycle courier. My first purchase was a pair of insulated riding gloves at £30. A helmet was next: the answer to the question "how much should I spend?" is invariably "how much do you value your head?" Prices range from about £35 for a cheap open-face nut-cracker; there is no upper limit for full-face optimum protection, but £300 is at the expensive end for normal road use.

Money spent on protective clothing which could save your life is well spent. Wearing biking leathers reinforced with body armour may sound excessive, but padded elbows, shins and kidneys are more likely to emerge bruised than battered after a high-speed tumble.

In choosing the machine, cost and colour are not the only factors: looks must be weighed up against attractiveness to thieves, particularly in cities. Female riders — and tiny men — are confronted with height



The Virago: fine name for woman's publisher, but not a woman's bike: the ergonomics are poor and the chopper styling lacks street-cred

and weight handicaps that can rule out even some under-250cc bikes.

Yamaha's Virago 535 is a pseudo-chopper remake with Harley lookalike chrome styling. The *Born to be Wild* look impresses non-bikers but has little street-cred. It's born to be mild, really: the middle sister in a family of 250 and 1100cc models, sometimes dismissively referred to as a "girl's bike". I felt at a distinct weight-disadvantage, with the wind beating against my chest and threatening to blow me right off while circling the M25. I felt ambivalent about this motorcycle: I enjoyed the ride but the look was not for me.

The Suzuki GSF N600 Bandit, was more like it, combining retro styling (chrome instruments, engine detail and exhaust) with performance looks. With almost-perfect weight distribution for female riders and slightly raised handlebars, the Bandit is a more challenging ride than the Virago, with that characteristic "Suze" whine in the upper rev register. I had difficulty parting with it.

More intimidating, both in looks and design, was Kawasaki's ZX6R Ninja. Its high-intensity performance styling and racing colours shriek "boy-racer". With the added girth of the fairing it felt heavy and less manoeuvrable in slow traffic, but on the motorway it danced on

tip-toe, light as a feather and super-responsive. The Ninja was also my introduction to Britain's busy motorcycle-theft industry. After three days' custodianship, someone tried to hot-wire it outside my home — which says more about it than I ever could.

The Honda CBR600F is similarly prone to disappearing. Lesson learnt, I parked it out of harm's way. I found it quiet and well-behaved but quite claustrophobic in the city, with most of the power stacked at the top end; a long and winding country road is required to unleash it. And then it lives up to its

high-performance looks and goes and goes and goes.

I saved the best (but not the most expensive) for last: the Ducati 600 Monster's design, styling and performance are irresistible. It's the perfect bike, compact, clean looks, evenly distributed weight and power, no excess paint or panelling and the cutest twin-exhaust behind you've ever seen. We bonded instantly on an early-morning jaunt from Northampton and it had to be prized out of my hands after a week-long love affair.

I've made the switch from four to two wheels, painlessly so far, although the lingo still escapes me. But please don't tell my mother.

Easy rider, racer or retro: how they rate

VIRAGO 535

Manufacturer: Yamaha
Displacement: 535cc
Transmission: 5-speed shaft-drive
Dry weight: 182kg
Fuel tank capacity: 13.5 litres
Fuel economy: 50 miles per gallon
Price: £4,499
Pose rating: poor man's Harley-Davidson. 5/10

N600 BANDIT

Manufacturer: Suzuki
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed constant mesh
Dry weight: 196kg
Fuel tank capacity: 19 litres
Fuel economy: 45 miles per gallon
Price: £4,399
Pose rating: retro styling attracts attention. 7/10

NINJA ZX-6R

Manufacturer: Kawasaki
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed x-ring chain
Dry weight: 182kg
Fuel tank capacity: 18 litres
Fuel economy: 50 miles per gallon
Price: £7,195
Pose rating: boy-racer's go-faster paintwork. 4/10

CBR600F

Manufacturer: Honda
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed
Dry weight: 185kg
Fuel tank capacity: 17 litres
Fuel economy: 40-45 miles per gallon
Price: £6,995
Pose rating: A racy ride. Impresses Barry Sheene wannabes. 7/10

600 MONSTER

Manufacturer: Ducati
Displacement: 583cc
Transmission: 5-speed
Dry weight: 175kg
Fuel tank capacity: 16.5 litres
Fuel economy: 40-45 miles per gallon
Price: £6,000
Pose rating: She's a babe. Loved by cognoscenti and bystanders alike. 10/10

Novices get the feeling of free-wheeling

Kevin Eason and colleagues learn how little wheels beat the traffic

You know that bloke on a scooter you made a rude gesture at the other day: the little guy with the black helmet? He came through your inside at the lights and screamed off into the distance? Well, I confess that was me.

I discovered the joys of the scooter in cities so clogged with cars that the traffic looks as though it is permanently parked down the length of the road instead of commuting.

It took a couple of days to get used to the feeling, but once I was attuned to putting my feet up and — as Beryl Reid so aptly put it in *The Killing of Sister George* — feeling 125cc throbbing between my legs, there was nothing to beat my Piaggio Sfera for getting in and out of work.

I weaved in and out of the traffic at the lights. I could sprint away from everything but the odd Ferrari and in five days of travelling, I spent just over a fiver on petrol.

But before you consider joining the rush to two wheels in a haze of nostalgia for the Lambretta, remember some important facts. You fall off scooters, so you learn to fix car drivers at junctions with a

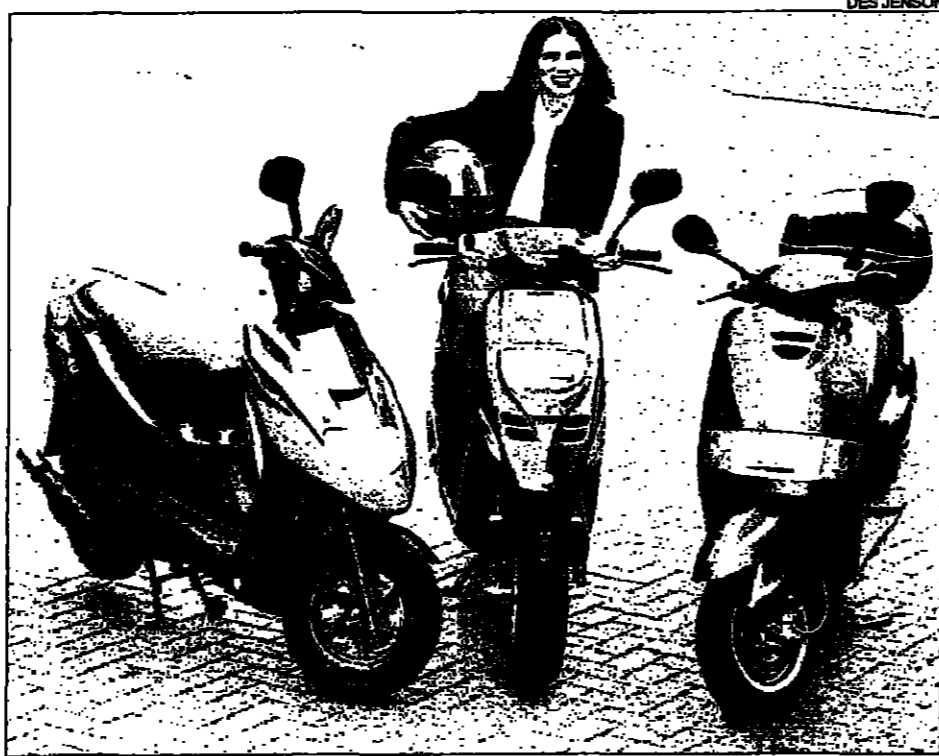
steely gaze as if hypnotising them into staying where they are. Wear the appropriate gear — leather trousers, are not only fetching, they avoid skinned knees and keep thighs from feeling as though they have been deep frozen.

Practise riding, particularly starting and stopping, which are the crisis moments in every scooterist's life.

And, as a fashion note, take some curling tongs to work because those helmets just take all the life and shape out of your hair.

To test the new wave of scooters, Car 96 recruited two novices: Jennai Cox, a commuter from South London, took our Suzuki AP50, while Lindsay Maggs, intrepid photographer and resident of Southend, Essex tried a Piaggio Typhoon 50cc.

NEVER having ridden a motorbike before, I took my compulsory basic training on the Suzuki AP50, which is an automatic, writes Jennai Cox. Not having to concentrate on gear changes or worry about stalling meant I got the hang of driving confidently within half an hour. Whizzing round the car park of the training



Novice Jennai Cox with, from left, the Suzuki AP50 and the 50cc and 125cc Piaggios

centre I felt like a fly, the scooter is so easy to manoeuvre.

The first encounter with traffic was a little scary. Without the security of a wind-screen or doors I felt very vulnerable and was much more aware of what was happening on the road.

But by the time I had to drive home I was happy doing 35mph (the maximum speed is about 40mph), and everything riders say about scooters being fun is true. I can't wait to get one of my own.

MY NOVICE status must have shone out as I rode the

Piaggio scooter for the first time, writes Lindsay Maggs. A police car followed me for five miles through London's Friday-night rush hour, and the driver was surprised when I told him I was riding to Southend. He asked why I was not wearing gloves.

Two hours later I arrived

home, cold but happy that I had sat out the journey at a top speed of 40mph, using only half a tank of petrol.

There is very little that can go wrong. The headlights turn on and off automatically, and to start the bike the front brake must be held in when the electronic starter button is pressed.

It's so simple, but the riding position on the Piaggio 50cc is very upright — hardly ideal for long distances, as the wind hits with direct force. Under the seat there is space for a crash helmet or a bag but not both.

Steering the machine is fine, apart from on really sharp corners: this demands practice because the wheels are so small that the bike initially feels unsteady. Putting the bike on the centre stand also requires a certain technique. Pushing the stand firmly down into the ground makes the bike gently lift itself up.

My return to London took only one and a half hours and cost £1.59 for petrol. At some points the lack of acceleration made the bike vulnerable, particularly when traffic merged from the right slip road into the centre lane. For town driving it would be hard to match, but for longer distances I would choose something more powerful.

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98N Mercedes E220 Elegance 4dr Auto, Silver, Elec./Roof, P.A.S., Elec.Mirrors, Radio/Cass., 10K	£23,925
98N Mercedes C220 Elegance Auto, Black, Elec./Roof, P.A.S., Radio/Cass., 10K	£23,725
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94L Mercedes E220 4dr Auto, Black, Elec./Roof, P.A.S., CD Player, 20K	£19,775
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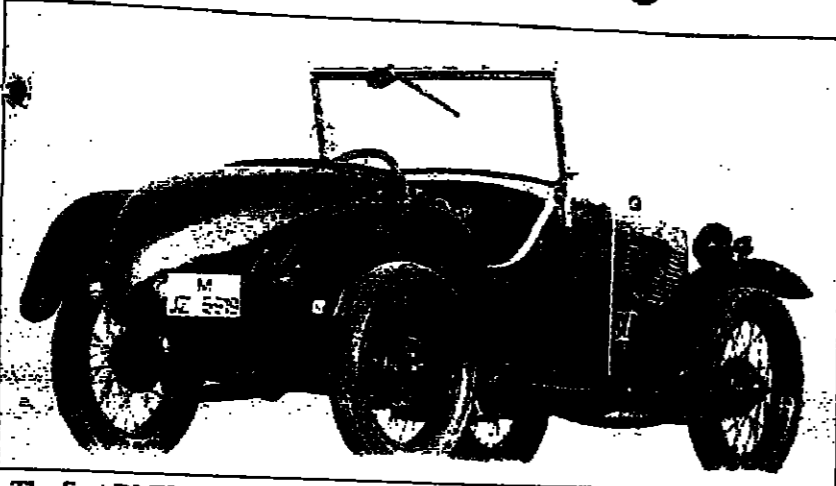
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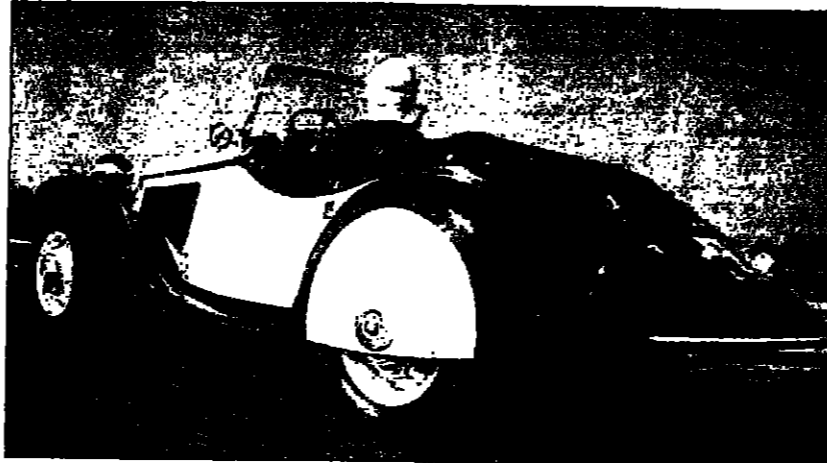
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BMW stars in the leading US concours event in the year it starts making cars there, reports Eric Dymock

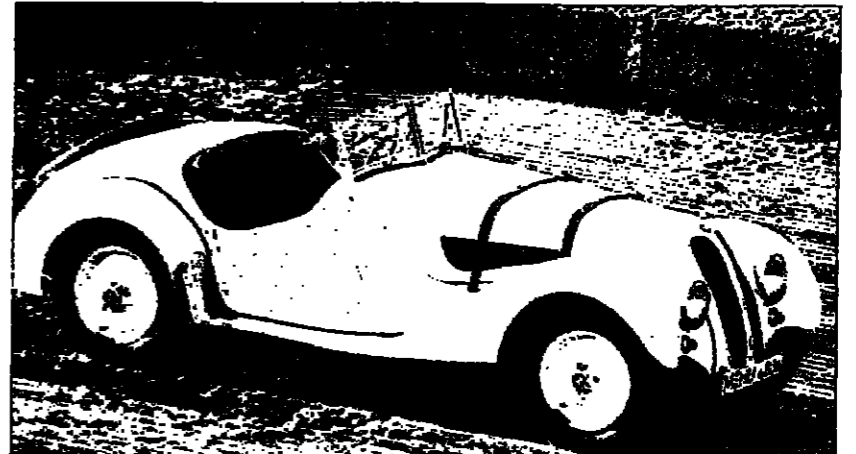
Germany invades America's glitterati



The first BMWs were based on Austin Sevens, but increasingly modified



The 315 rewrote sporting car design, with its soft springs and stiff chassis



The 328, one of the best 1930s sportscars, inspired Frazer-Nash to import it

Brooklands's old spirit survives among the warm palm beaches and coconut groves of California.

The Right Crowd and No Crowding, the Brooklands racetrack slogan from its opening in 1906 until its last chequered flag in 1939, has translated easily to America's Laguna Seca Raceway, which clings to the pine-fringed semi-desert off Highway 101, south of San Jose.

This is the home of Pebble Beach's Concours d'Elegance, the most glamorous annual display of historic cars in the United States and arguably in the world. Appropriately, in the year that BMW has started manufacturing cars in the United States, the German company is the Concours's featured marque.

Instead of the clipped vowels of aristocrats like Earl Howe, Prince Bira or Count Zborowski, who frequented the Brooklands paddock, this weekend will hear the drawl of rich, corporate America. Families like the Fords and the Firestones, who created America's motor industry, will talk cars with stars such as arch-enemy Paul Newman, who has his own racing team.

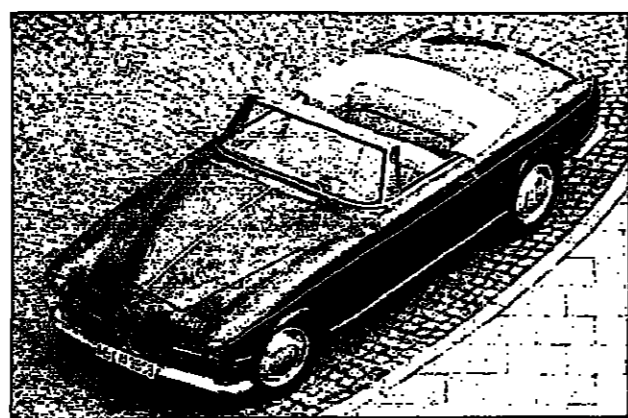
The Monterey Peninsula was the cradle of American sportscar racing, with machines roaring down the streets of elegant Pebble Beach in the 1940s. Now it is once again given over to cars: the annual parade on the 18th hole of Pebble Beach golf course is made up of cars in better condition than they were when they left the factory anything up to 90 years ago.

Americans tend to over-restore, adding chrome where there was none, burnishing anything burrishable, and polishing off the patina of age. The effect is often stunning but curiously sterile.

The standing quip among the veterans who turn up to watch is that the cars have lasted better than they have. Either way, both veteran and vintage will be elegantly arrayed between the exclusive Pebble Beach Lodge and a deep blue creek on the edge of the Pacific. As the sun burns off the mist that rolls in from the ocean and the tailored car-carvers come off, the varnished wood and shining metal shimmer in the blinding light.

Amid all the splendours on display, one of the treasures brought over especially from BMW's Munich museum looks surprisingly modest, and bears more than a passing resemblance to a 1922 Austin Seven. BMW's fortunes were founded on a car conceived in secret in the billiard room of Herbert Austin's home at Lickey Grange, Bromsgrove, Birmingham.

BMW began making aeroplanes in 1911, but under the Treaty of Versailles it had to



BMW returned to roadsters with models like the 503

concentrate on motorcycles until 1928, when it bought the Dixi car factory in Eisenach.

Dixi made Austin Sevens under licence, starting with a batch of 50 cars built from British components. It agreed to make 2,000 a year, cheated and made 9,000, but it was still not enough to pay off the overdraft. BMW then took over. There were open two-seaters, four-seat touring cars, a two-door saloon, convertibles, and a delivery van. The 1930 BMW 3/15 Wartburg on show at Laguna Seca is a sporty version with an extra

three horsepower. This model gave BMW its first racing victory at the Nurburgring with German MG enthusiast Bobby Kohlerhaus.

BMW decided the little baby Austin was crude. It got the firm into cars, but component by component it was redesigned, with a smooth-running roller-bearing crankshaft and overhead valves for more power.

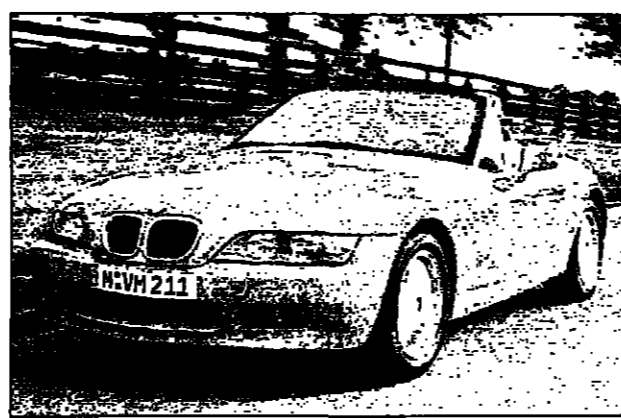
By 1932 the car was more BMW than Austin: the licensing agreement was ended, the

chassis strengthened, and a new engine introduced.

In the 1934 Alpine Trial, the BMW 315 rewrote the specification of the sporting car which until then had stiff springs and a flexible chassis. BMW introduced soft springs and a stiff chassis, transforming the handling and roadholding. It evolved into the 328, one of the finest sports cars of the 1930s. Frazer-Nash, which manufactured the archetypal British sports car, saw the writing on the wall and started importing them. BMW's astonishing engine

was developed by Bristol and provided Mike Hawthorn with the power to make his mark in the 1950s.

The 328 reached its apotheosis in 1939 and 1940, and the museum's roadsters at Laguna Seca include the trend-setting 1940 Mille Miglia car which inspired Sir William Lyons when he drew up the XK120 Jaguar of 1948. Spirited out of Germany in 1945, the Mille Miglia BMW was re-launched as a Frazer-Nash, and raced in Britain by Gilbert Tyrer, a Liverpool garage owner, in the 1950s. It was



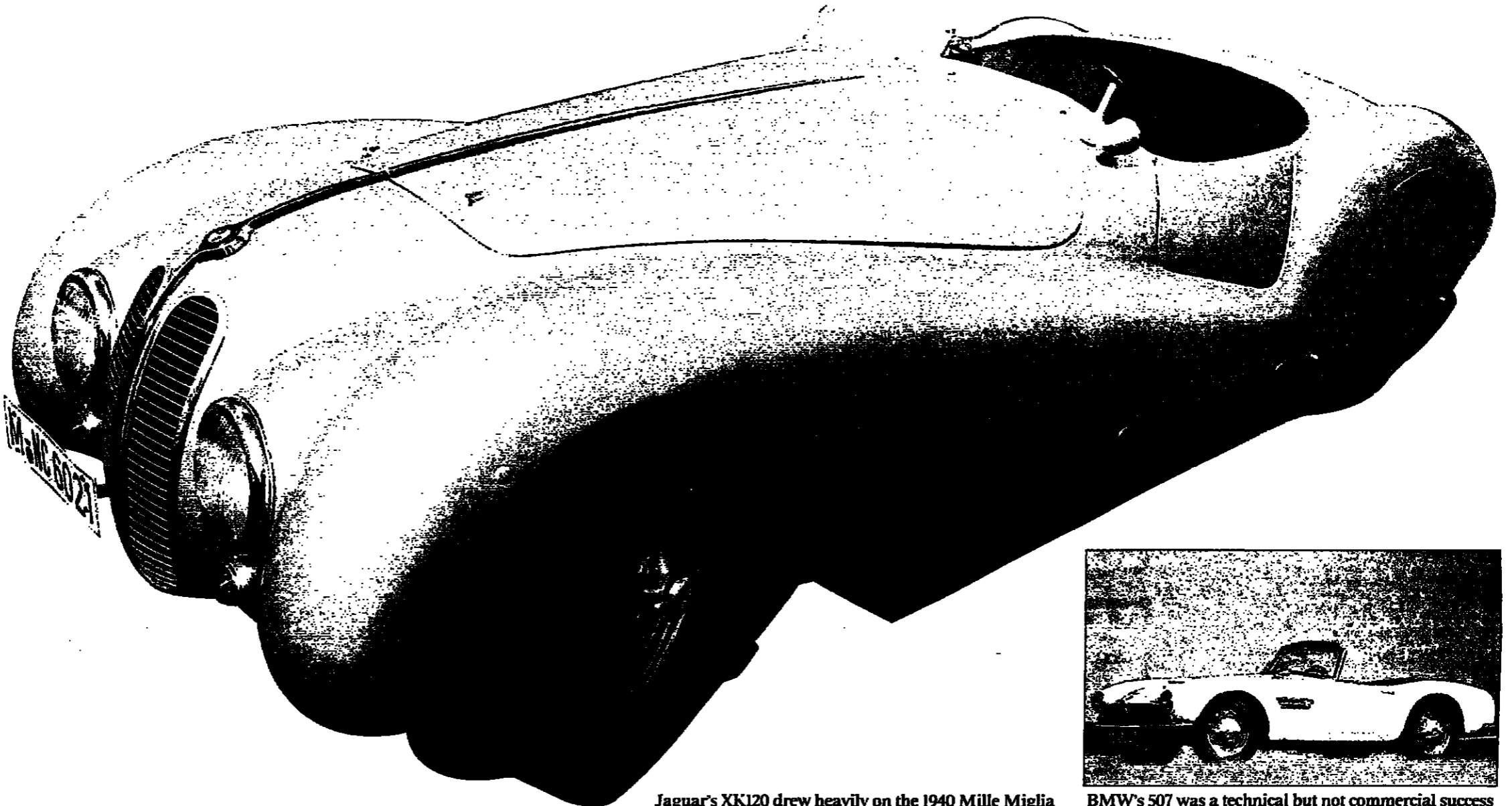
The roadster evolved into the Z3 used in Goldeneye

restored as a BMW by Michael Bowler, founding editor of Classic Car magazine and returned to the BMW museum in the 1960s.

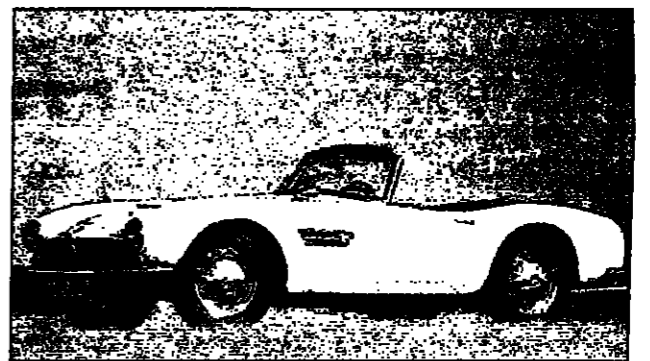
It has been back in Britain twice. It took part in the Ecurie Ecosse tour of Scotland in 1993 and reappeared for this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed. It is reunited with the newly-restored aluminium roadster BMWs commissioned by the NSKK, the National Socialist Motor Vehicle Corps. The bodies were built by the Italian Touring coachbuilder in 1940 and never raced again.

BMW returned to the roadster business in 1955 with the 507. It was a technical and artistic success but scarcely a commercial one. Only 252 were ever made. The 1986 Z1 was a technical masterpiece with a hot-dip galvanised frame and a plastic body, and although 8,000 were produced between 1988 and 1991 it too never achieved the success it deserved.

BMW is hoping for better things with the Z3, the roadster that starred in the last James Bond epic. Built in BMW's American factory at Spartanburg, the 1.9-litre two-seater takes some styling fea-



Jaguar's XK120 drew heavily on the 1940 Mille Miglia



BMW's 507 was a technical but not commercial success

tures from the 507 and will go on sale in Britain in competition with the MGF.

If concours fails to stir the blood, the racing at Laguna Seca just might. Historic racing is no less hectic because the cars are old, and no quarter is given just because an old car is irreplaceable. Racing cars were crashed and overhauled constantly when they were new, so the original fabric is less important than a continuous history. A new chassis, new engine, and a new body does not change a car's identity.

The Pebble Beach concours is not just a show, reports Alan Copps. Its auctions are a celebrity chaser's dream

Cars of the stars for sale

Pebble Beach's Concours d'Elegance is glitzy, but the business part of the weekend is auctions. The cars for sale are every bit as rare, beautiful and well-connected as the examples simply for show.

There are two auctions: one by the local company, Rick Cole, is selling Elvis Presley's BMW; the other, Christie's major American auction of the year has a host of intriguing entries including the car that Gregory Peck fell in love with in 1962, a Bentley S2 Continental Flying Spur. Used only for "special outings and occasions" it has accumulated 84,000 miles during his 34 years of ownership.

History is all with such cars and the amounts spent on service and maintenance are carefully detailed in the car's documents. The notes give an amusing hint that even the very rich and very famous have to put up with irritating motoring niggles, reporting: "The car's oil pressure is reading low but has recently been checked by a Rolls-Royce and Bentley specialist who confirms the gauge is not reading correctly."

Another Bentley S2 dating from 1962 was bought new by the actress Joan Fontaine and

has been owned by her ever since. In an auction which boasts a choice of 16 Rolls-Royces and is studded with half-million-dollar cars, the Bentleys have comparatively modest estimates of £15,000 to £19,000.

The serious money in the Christie's auction room will be chasing the 1949 Ferrari 166MM, one of only 25 made. It was second in the Mille Miglia, crashed while leading the Le Mans 24-hour race (its driver Pierre Louis Dreyfus used the pseudonym Ferret).

After the car was rebuilt, it went on to win the 24-hour race at Spa, soundly beating the Delages, which boasted engines twice the size of its 2-litre V12. That victory effectively founded the Ferrari racing legend.

This car, with the chassis number 0010M, was subsequently bought by Jim Kimberly, heir to the Kimberly Kleenex fortune and raced on the old Pebble Beach street circuit. In his and other hands it scored a series of victories in American sportscar racing and then passed into the hands of collectors. Its restoration has been so complete that it won a first prize at the Pebble Beach Concours. It could go for £650,000.



Gregory Peck with his cherished 1961 Bentley Flying Spur, used for special outings

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CAR... TOONS



Eve-Ann Prentice and Colin Winter with get-you-home remedies for mechanical emergencies

Quick-fix tricks to beat breakdowns

Are you nervous about having a breakdown? For women, it can be especially daunting if the car shudders, clangs or hisses to a halt at night or on a lonely road.

Yet some emergencies which may seem beyond the wit of non-mechanical man, let alone woman, can be overcome very easily.

Here are simple ways to overcome three of the most frequent causes of breakdown. They are not cures but they will get the vehicle moving again, so you can at least limp to a garage or other help.

If the temperature gauge soars to frightening levels, the water hose may have split. Turn off the engine and wait a while before attempting to open the bonnet to allow any

steam to disperse. You will know the hose is to blame because, even if you cannot tell where it is, there will be water everywhere in the engine compartment.

Let the engine cool down even longer, using the time to find where the water is coming from. Wrap some PVC tape around the split in the hose.

This temporary measure should alleviate the problem while you seek professional assistance. Next, try to put any water from the windshield washer bottle into the radiator.

enough, under the bonnet somewhere beneath the windshield. Take care to use a cloth or piece of clothing when removing the radiator cap as it may still be hot.

If the engine temperature is high but there is no sign of a deluge of leaking water, it may be that the engine has overheated in heavy traffic in hot weather, a problem with which many older cars are prone.

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50 CARS BETWEEN £9,000 & £15,000

Table with columns: MODEL, PRICE, Jul-96, Aug-96, Chge. Lists 50 car models and their price changes.

USED CAR BRIEF

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY TD: Now six years old, Discovery is the baby Range Rover, cheaper, smaller, but just as effective off-road.



USED CAR BRIEF: A collection of tips and advice for buying used cars, including sections on Good News, Bad News, Look For, To Avoid, Insurance, Replacement Parts, and Overall.

MORE THAN 15,000 motorists have bought personalised P-registration plates since the annual prefix changed on August 1.

MG, MAZDA, NISSAN, PERFORMANCE CARS: A row of car advertisements for MG, Mazda, Nissan, and Performance Cars.

No1 IN ESSEX: Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki, Piaggio. JOHNS OF ROMFORD MOTORCYCLES.

ROGER BARRETT'S: Dorset's Premier Motorcycles Dealer. ALL MODELS IN STOCK.

Stop Dreaming you can afford a sports car. Special Event This Weekend Only 40. used MX-5s from only £9,995.

NISSAN, MERCEDES, MORGAN: Advertisements for Nissan, Mercedes, and Morgan cars.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS: Advertisement for Jaguar and Daimler dealers.

LANCASTER: Jaguar XJS V12 5.3 Coupe, Jaguar XJ6 3.2S (X300). 0181 302 3333.

PALADIN: 93L XJ6 3.2S, Auto, Air Con. 94M XJ40 Sov 4.0. 0181 302 3333.

LANCASTER: CARBIDE, LONDON, COLCHESTER. 0181 983 4444.

What's in a name... Arlington. 01604 36911.

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Ready driver belong off the roads

Jeep advertisement with logo and text: 'Your assurance of quality in pre-owned Jeeps'.

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MERCEDES 96N E230 ELEGANCE AUTO Green/Cream Leather. 0181 423 3486

E220 Sep 04 M. auto, 23k, silver. 0181 518 8701

420 SL 1988. Red/black leather. 0181 680 7411

MERCEDES WANTED NEW Model E Class Required. 0181 302 3333

PORSCHE 911 RS Lightweight. 0181 508 6693

911 CAB 96N. Silver / Marble. 0181 299 8277

968 SPORT 6,000 miles or less. 0181 299 8277

1968 D. Blue metallic. Excellent condition. 01903 744416

MERCEDES E300 D 96N Auto (New Model) Avant. 01524 61348 Office

E230 AVANTGARDE Automatic, Silver/Black leather. 01249 440000 (C)

560 SEC 1988 F. Antirust. 01249 730613 (H)

E230 ELEGANCE May 1986. Automatic. 01933 226177

190 Auto C Reg. 1990. 01933 226177

300SL 89G Signal red, cream leather. 0181 332 7577

200TE AUTO 83 Reg. 49k. 0171 267 1669

928 S2 1986 D. Blue metallic. 01903 744416

911 Speedster 1989. Guards red/linen. 01844 260044(P)

911 C2 guards, 7K. 01846 663939

911 3.3 TURBO 1974. 01706 357101/0973

355 Spider Yellow/black leather. 01844 260044(P)

C200 Elegance 95N. 0171 702 0896

C220 Elegance 94N. 0181 443 3311

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300TE 24v estate. 01492 581 992 (eve)

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911 C2 guards, 7K. 01846 663939

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C180 Elegance (auto) brilliant silver. 01558 885185

E220 93L Rosewood Auto 49k. 01527 874096

SL600 93 (L). Blue/Black. 0181 518 8701

SL320 Delivery miles 10k of August registered. 01539 488287

200E AUTO Mid reg. 01580 764127

MINSTER 911 CARRERA 4. 0181 302 3333

PORSCHE 911 CABRIOLET. 01846 663939

911 CARRERA 2 CONVERTIBLE. 01846 663939

911 CARRERA 4. 01846 663939

1968 D. Blue metallic. 01903 744416

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SL280 95N 1.9 10 miles. 01558 885185

C180 ELEGANCE Auto, 95 M reg. 01753 730957

E220 93L Rosewood Auto 49k. 01527 874096

SL600 93 (L). Blue/Black. 0181 518 8701

SL320 Delivery miles 10k of August registered. 01539 488287

200E AUTO Mid reg. 01580 764127

MINSTER 911 CARRERA 4. 0181 302 3333

PORSCHE 911 CABRIOLET. 01846 663939

911 CARRERA 2 CONVERTIBLE. 01846 663939

911 CARRERA 4. 01846 663939

1968 D. Blue metallic. 01903 744416

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LANCASTER 96N SL500 Tourmaline. 01708 861321

LANCASTER 96N SL500 Tourmaline. 01992 514444

LANCASTER 96N SL500 Tourmaline. 0181 983 4444

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Claire Evans at a competition celebrating women's four-wheel motor skills

Lady drivers belong off the roads

Steering high and mighty four-wheel-drive vehicles through muddy and mountainous terrain is often seen as a male preserve...

Women make far better off-road drivers than their male counterparts. Men see it as a macho thing and often thrash headlong into the obstacles...

On the first stage of the challenge at the West Lodge Rural Centre in Market Harborough, Leicestershire...



Novice drivers gathered into pub and firm teams

The teams had come from as far apart as Scotland and Southampton, and big names such as Cornhill Insurance...

In spite of their differences the one thing they all shared was a sense of adventure.

"We were very nervous this morning, but after a few hours the confidence had built up and we went for it."

The four women from Konica had been nominated from branches in Swansea, Birmingham, London and Scotland and didn't meet until the morning of the event.



Men drive straight into obstacles, women think ahead

"The most difficult parts of the course were the best. They really made us work together guiding each driver through and reminding each other of the completely alien driving techniques necessary like not touching the brakes as you roll down a steep slope."

F1 Fantasy Drive update

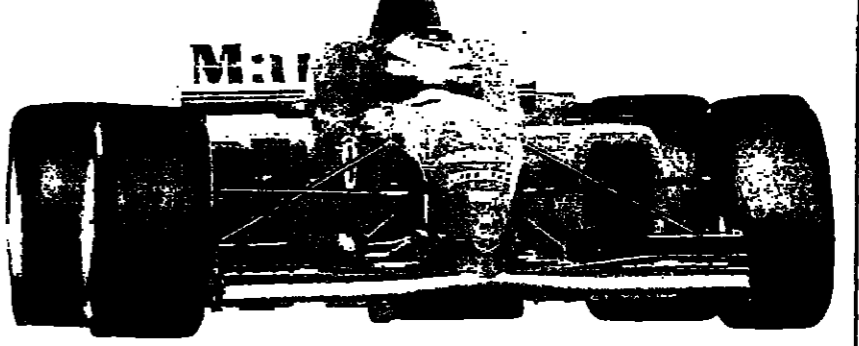
Below we print the results of last week's Hungarian Grand Prix at Budapest, plus the cumulative points in each category for the 11 races in our fantasy game so far.

team name, and the name of the fantasy team manager. The table shows Chris Dare still leading the race with 6,412 points.

Our 11th race winner after the Hungarian Grand Prix is Tom Standley from Colchester, whose team, Sian's Wheels, scored 737 points. He wins a trip for two to the Portuguese Grand Prix on September 22.

TOTAL POINTS AFTER THE HUNGARIAN GP

Table with columns: Group, Driver, Last race points, Total Fantasy points. Lists drivers from Group A to Group H.



HOW YOUR DRIVERS SCORED POINTS IN BUDAPEST

Qualifying points are scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid: M Schumacher 20 points; D Hill 19; J Villeneuve 18; E Irvine 17; J Alesi 16; G Berger 15; M Hakkinen 14; J Herbert 13; D Coulthard 12; H-H Frentzen 11; O Paris 10; M Brundle 9; R Barrichello 8; U Katayama 7; P Diniz 6; M Salo 5; J Verstappen 4; R Rosset 3; P Lamy 2.

F1 FANTASY DRIVE LEADERBOARD AFTER 11 RACES

Table with columns: Rank, Points, Team Name, Manager Name. Lists top fantasy teams and managers.

CALL 0891-405 032

You can change up to four of your drivers on our transfer line below (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is permitted in the transfer period - more than one call will invalidate your transfers.

CALL THE 24-HOUR CHECKLINE 0891-774 734

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

CI ANS £4,850 01228 45967. JES 234... £3,900 ETS 595... £2,500 NMW 837 £2,000 01828 632547. J5 LTD offers £2,000 on retention 01335 370813 Fax 01335 370732.

TED 7 on 1955 Jaguar XK140 coupe in need of restoration on V5 £15,500 for both. 01978 762614 North Wales. A2 OMP A3 OMP Offers above £1,000. Tel: 01590 681974. L6SLY £1,300 Ring Lesley on 01525 261720.

PAU 159W Private sale Offers over £7,750. Or swap for -AGM- Tel:01403 741111. EUG 1 + 1991 BMW 730SE £30k one. 01536 266404 (h/v) 268346 (w).

REGISTRATION NUMBERS 200 TU ON MERC. 200T Offers over £10,000. 01887 820465. ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY LOO00 Insurance Scheme, Exclusive Privilege Rates, Call Transmats World 01604 351000.

ELITE REGISTRATIONS

P.O. Box 100, Devizes, Wilt, SN8 4TE Tel: 01380 818181

Large table of registration numbers and prices for various car models like Audi, BMW, Mercedes, etc.

I PAC £9,995 ono 0161 485 3612 0973 963078. B5 TAD £8,500 Tel: 0181 5795886. FU 5 Offers over £7,500 Tel:01753 771908.

MUM 502 £1,000 01282 773 414. VW V6 On Carrado V86 Sensible offers over £5,000 for plate 0115 941 8333.

MARKET RESEARCH 33 DAISY HILL, CHORLEY 563 AC JT 2755 AH 9383 LA 3621 4502 AP LS 7927 8533 DK 6887 PL 9578 4014 PP EK 7831 1017 RH GS 6987 RT 744V HK 4741 I256 SH JC 8224 SS 9649 JS 6666 SW 3333 JW 1175 2527 WW 01257 482305

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JSY 1 On stock BMW 723, reg 1979, genuine 120,000 miles from new. Perfect & original in every way. JSY 1G Unique opportunity for existing car. Offers over £20,000 the lot. Separate offers on/see considered. Tel: 9535 542958.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY 98 MY Bentley Turbo R, Sherwood Green, 5700 Miles, 299,990, 0181 822 0025/0274 729191.

Premier Plates Tel: 01365 388782

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With your help, our centenary search has unearthed more machines and created a mystery, says Tony Dawe

Shy models found with famous names

ADRIAN BROOKS

MOTOR CITY

COVENTRY

20th August to 1st September 1996

Proud owners are set to parade rare and beautiful machines built by well-known manufacturers

Sitting in a cornfield in Warwickshire, the splendid red 1920s coupe looks as if it is taking part in a publicity shoot for a remake of Bonnie and Clyde. It is in reality preparing for the celebration of one hundred years of the British motor industry.

The Standard Charleote, made in 1926 and the only one surviving, will feature in a parade of famous Coventry-made cars which will launch three days of festivities in the city at the end of this month.

The elegant motor, which is in perfect working order after much restoration, has come to light after Car 96 joined forces with the organisers of Motor in the City to hunt for models from the dozens of Coventry carmakers.

The search has turned up Cluleys and Stoneleights and provided proof, if not examples, of Ennys and Iden. The latest haul includes more familiar names: Standard and Siddeley; Alvis and Cooper — but less familiar models. The Charleote is owned and driven by Paul Newsome, whose family has earned its own place in Coventry's motoring history.

"On quiet straight country roads the car goes quite well and is reasonably lively, but on winding roads and in traffic it can be difficult," he says.

"The car has a centrally placed accelerator which means I have to concentrate harder. If it's raining, every time I put my foot on the pedal the windscreen wipers stop because they work by vacuum."

The Charleote was one of several stylish models built by Standard in the 1920s and named after Warwickshire towns. Its crafted badge and dashboard were typical of the care lavished on the models, but few were made and the company had more success with its cheaper models, the Standard Eight and Ten.

Newsome snapped up the car in 1961 because it dates from the year his father Sammy first won a franchise to sell Standard cars.



The sole surviving 1931 Standard Charleote coupé poses ready for the cavalcade. The car was one of several stylish models built by the Coventry carmaker in the 1920s and named after local towns

Newsome senior was himself a Coventry carmaker in the early 1920s, producing light cars with Coventry Climax engines. "Only a handful were made because there were dozens of people producing similar cars, so he set up the dealership instead," his son says. He did however produce a racing version called the Warwick for a 500-mile race at Brooklands but it performed poorly and that enterprise died as well. Both Cooper and Warwick feature in the list of Coventry-made models which can no longer be traced.

John Siddeley, another famous Coventry carmaker, features prominently in the collection of Nigel Bradshaw of Lytham St Anne's. Siddeley founded the Siddeley Auto Car Company in 1902. The company was soon taken over by Wolseley, but cars with the

Siddeley name were made for a couple of years and one is owned and driven by Bradshaw.

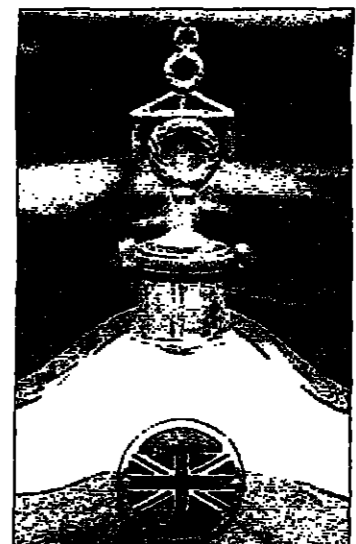
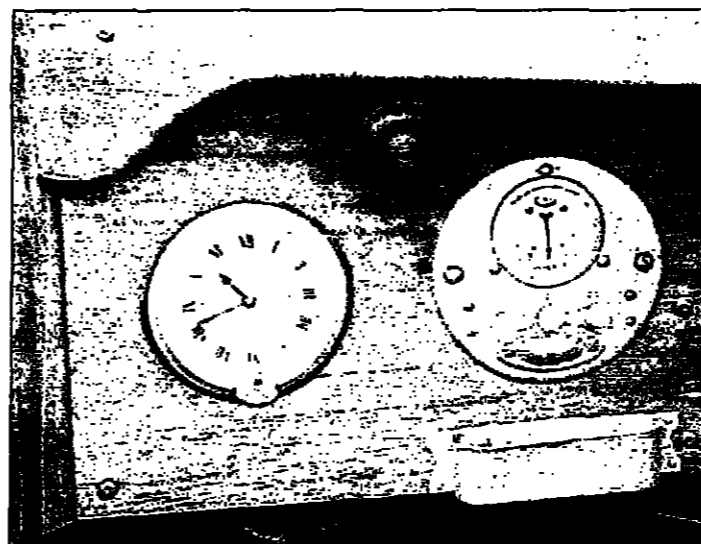
It was miles ahead of its day, he says, "with a belt-driven fan, gearbox and engine linked together and overhead inlet valves with side exhausts".

After the Wolseley takeover Siddeley joined the company founded by Captain Deasy and added his initials to the name of a model which Bradshaw also owns. Siddeley-Deasy cars were produced until a merger with Armstrong Whitworth of Newcastle led to the famous Armstrong Siddeley marque.

"My 1910 Deasy JDS is the only one which survives and has been in my family for fifty years," Bradshaw says. "It is used regularly, has been from John O'Groats to

Lands End and abroad. It's a very original car, a four-seat 12hp tourer with a radiator on the bulkhead and a bonnet shape which earned it the nickname of Jack Siddeley's coffin."

Bradshaw and his son Jonathan will be driving the two cars in the Coventry Collection parade on Friday August 30 and one man who hopes to join them is John Mauer of Beccles, Suffolk. He owns a 1949 Alvis 14 drop-head coupe with bodywork by Carbodies of Coventry, better known now for making London taxis. "I expect Carbodies bodywork is already well represented," writes Mauer, "but my very original and low-mileage car is not on any list so the organisers will not know about it." Now they do, and the parade is becoming more and more impressive.



The Charleote's dashboard and badge typify the care lavished on Standard's costlier products

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win a fabulous day's racing at Silverstone

The Times, in association with ACC Jaguar, offers you the chance to win an exciting day at the British GT Championships at Silverstone, Northants, on Sunday, October 13.

The winner and a companion will be VIP guests of the ACC Jaguar team. You will meet their four drivers, visit the pits, have an unrivalled view of the race and enjoy a superb buffet lunch.

You will also be given some top quality ACC Jaguar merchandise. Three runners-up will each win an exclusive ACC Jaguar sweatshirt.

With its first major sponsorship leading telephone service provider, ACC, is pinning its hopes of a win on two race-modified cars in the BRDC GT Championships. The 3.5-litre mid-engined Jaguar XJ220s produce more than 600 bhp.

The cars (one is pictured below) will be competing with the McLaren F1, Marcos and Porsche 993 in the climax of the British GT championships.

HOW TO ENTER

Call our competition hotline with your answer to the following question: **What is the brake horse power of the ACC Jaguar XJ220?**

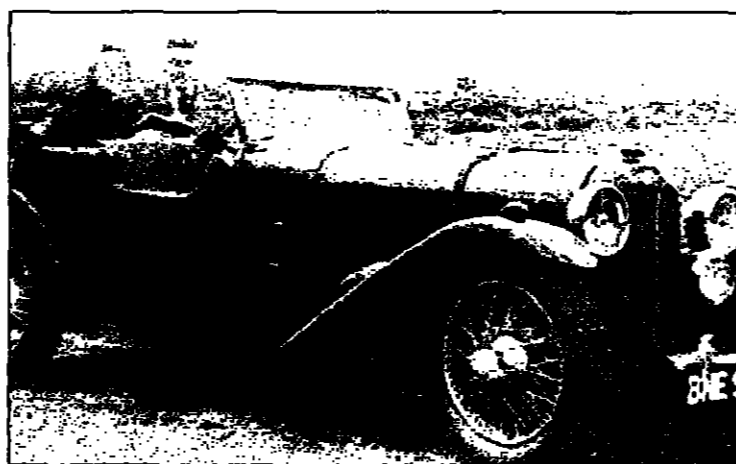
The winner and runners-up will be chosen at random from all correct entries received before midnight on Wednesday, August 21. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.



CALL OUR COMPETITION HOTLINE ON 0839 444 518

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times

Was carmaker Marendaz really a noble?



The Marendaz Special: a reader had difficulty getting rid of one

More accounts of the shadowy Count

Of all the characters associated with the first hundred years of the British motor industry, Marcus Marendaz has stirred most interest among readers.

Sheila Lewis of Coventry wrote last month of her father's excitement at working for Count Marendaz and riding with the cars to the station to be dispatched by rail.

Allan Lupton of the Leu-Francois Owners' Club responded: "Count Marendaz indeed! Captain D. M. K. Marendaz, who operated as Marsal from 1919-25 in Coventry and subsequently under his own name in London, was an inveterate writer to the press until his relatively recent death. His usual topic was the robust defence of his motor cars against some slight, real or imagined, that had appeared in print. What he would have written about his elevation to the nobility defies imagination."

James Thomas of London recalls that Marendaz was a premium apprentice at the same time as his

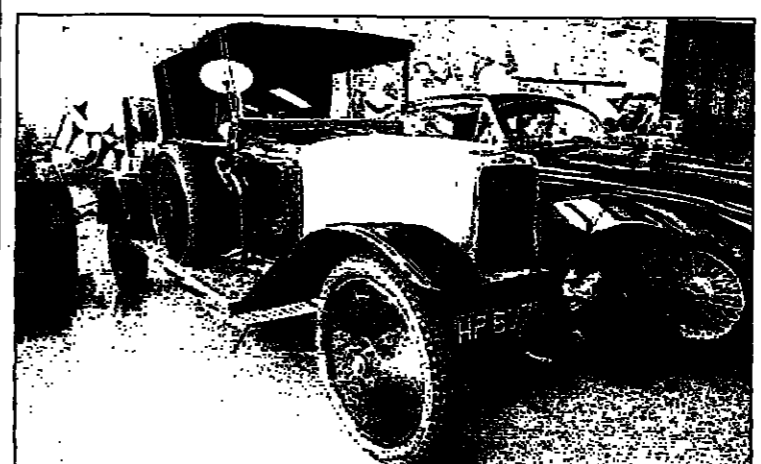
father, Cyril John Thomas, at the Siddeley-Deasy company in Coventry. He writes: "In 1912, in my first year, the apprentices got a penny an hour. I have my father's indenture which shows this."

Marendaz later moved to Brighton and then Maidenhead, where he produced his Marendaz Specials.

Mrs Langley of Campton, Bedfordshire, sent a photograph of one of the Specials owned by her late husband. "He purchased the Marendaz from a Mr Bendall of Stevenage in the early 1950s for £95 and we spent a lot of time doing it up including painting it in post office red with black mudguards. I had the headlights rechromed at the Marmet baby carriage factory in Letchworth where I worked."

"When we got engaged, he realised he couldn't afford to run it, so after trying to sell it to various garages on the North Circular in London, he sold it back to Mr Bendall for £25. It would be wonderful if we could still trace the car."

Readers remind us of forgotten marque



Coventry's British Museum of Road Transport has an example

The fated Albatros returns to haunt us

The fateful omission of one important marque in our list of Coventry-made cars published on July 20 has pursued us like its doom-laden namesake.

Mr B. Blackwell, secretary of the Standard Register writes to report a sighting of the Albatros, marketed in the 1923-24 season. An unremarkable "assembled" small car, he says, powered by a Coventry Climax engine definitely made an appearance in a car showroom in Cardigan in the mid to late 1960s. "I would opine that it is probably still extant," he assures us.

In fact the Museum of British Road Transport at Coventry can confirm his theory: it has a 1923 Albatros four-cylinder tourer preserved in its own museum.

Whether the car was originally intended to have a name of ill omen or was merely a corruption of its maker's name, Albert Ross, is still disputed by motoring historians. The company was certainly ill-fated, surviving for just two years,

from 1923 to 1924 and was typical of many small firms which went into the motor industry but just could not make a go of it.

The model in the museum is ten horsepower and has been completely refurbished to its original condition with an open two-seater body with dickey seat.

The museum has also unearthed an advertisement from *The Light Car and Cyclecar* magazine which offers a model called "Chummy" for £240 "delivery at works" including "electric lighting, self-starter, spare wheel and cord tyres".

The museum will be at the centre of the British motor industry's centenary celebrations at the end of this month, with special displays and a mini street for youngsters to practise the highway Code and their driving skills in pedal cars. It will also be sending some of its prize exhibits, including six historic Daimlers on the Mayflower Shakespear run through Warwickshire on Sunday September 1.

John Marendaz

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY SAAB AUTHORISED DEALERS KENTISH SAAB SAAB 900S 1994L 2.3 Auto New model, metallic green, v.v. walnut fascia, 22k miles, full warranty. £12,950. Tel: 0181 6501505.

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CAR 96

DR DASHBOARD

Can I learn to scooter?

Q I always thought motorbikes were for kids or middle-aged macho blokes...

Q I don't like the sound of "New law!" That's the kind of phrase that strikes fear into the heart of the sanest road user...

Q This sounds like a lot of training to start. What happens after all that?

A So long as you opt for a scooter with an engine of less than 50cc, a top speed not exceeding 30mph and a maximum weight of 250kg...

A You need to pass a theory test to ride a moped or motorcycle, just as you would for a car.

A That depends how old you are, whether you already have a full car licence and what sort of motorcycle licence you want.

Q I'm not really Hell's Angel material, but I think I'd like something a bit larger than that. What do I do to get a licence?

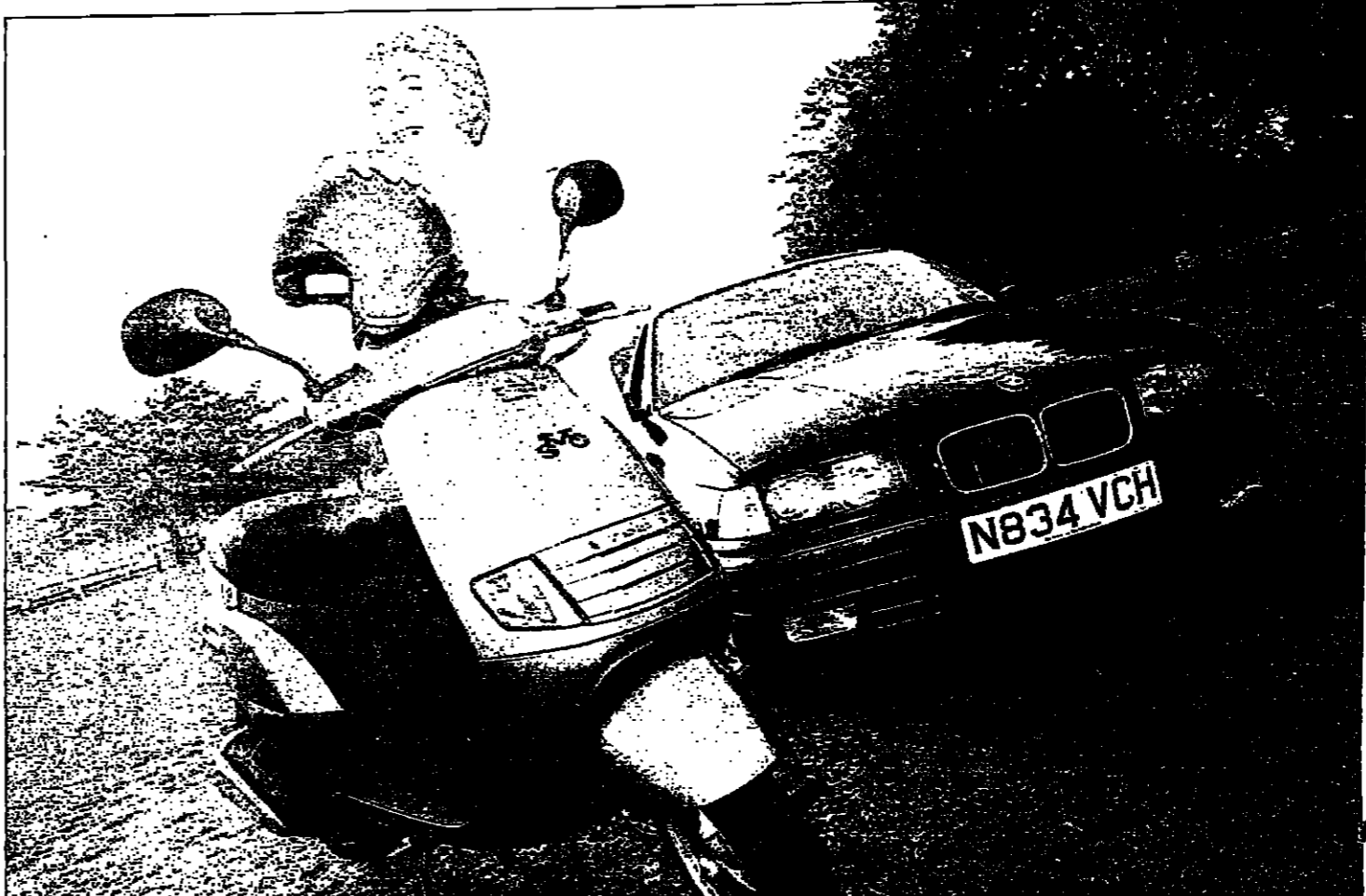
Q How long does the Compulsory Basic Training course take and where do I go to do it?

Q And what are these three different sorts of motorcycle licence about, then?

A That depends how old you are and what kind of scooter or bike you want. The first thing you need is an invaluable leaflet issued by the Motorcycle Rider Training Association...

A A dealer or the MRTA will point you in the right direction, but you must go to a training organisation which is approved by the Driving Standards Agency.

A An automatic licence, which could be useful for scooter riders: a light motorcycle licence which restricts you to 125cc and a standard licence, although depending on your age you may still face restrictions with it.



Monica Dickman: I would give tax relief to people who travel to work by environmental modes of transport to boost two-wheelers

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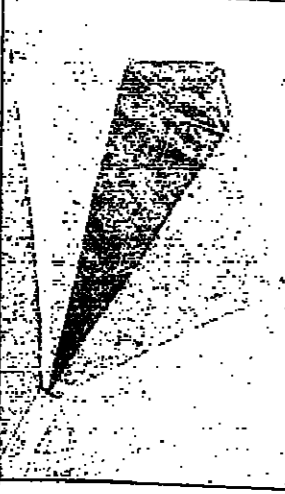
The day I took my Cortina gliding. Jennai Cox talks to long-term scooter rider Monica Dickman.

Bikes were in her blood before she was born, says Monica Dickman. She has worked in the motorcycle industry for 25 years and last month became the first female chairman of the Motorcycle Industry Association of Great Britain. She joined the motorcycle finance house, RIGP, in 1971 as an underwriter and after working in marketing took charge of sales. Her real interest in motorcycles started after riding a scooter in the 1960s, and for short journeys Monica still uses a Piaggio Skipper 125cc. People who hog the outside lane of the motorway. They poole along at 70mph in no hurry to get anywhere but just sit in the lane. I call them Sunday drivers, they really annoy me. What is the most unusual thing you have ever done in your car? Paragliding the Ford Cortina. I was late for a meeting and not wanting to be stuck at some traffic lights I was approaching, took a detour I had never tried before into a kind of demolition site. It was pouring with rain and I had to go through a big puddle but didn't realise it was split-level. I took off from the first level at 70mph, landed on my front wheels and carried on. It was wonderful. Have you ever had any points on your licence? Once, I was driving to the Grand Prix at Silverstone in August 1980 and I got cross with two bikers in front of me, driving really slowly and having a chat. It was a Sunday, about 7:15 in the morning so I put my foot down and overtook them. I got a speeding ticket and a £25 fine. What do you listen to on your car radio/cassette while driving? I have got very catholic tastes so like almost anything. I usually listen to Radio 4 in the mornings and take book tapes for when I get tired of music. The autobiographies are good and you can rewind when your concentration lapses. It is amazing how quickly the journey passes when you are listening to them. If you were Secretary of State for Transport what is the first thing you would do? I would give tax relief to people who travel to work by environmental modes of transport, like two-wheelers, with the objective of raising the proportion of this type of travel from 20 to 25 per cent by the year 2000. This would require a review of road management, road pricing and transport investment proposals from local and national authorities to make the two-wheeler an accepted part of the transport infrastructure. What is your most hated car? The Ford Cortina. I had one and it caused me so much trouble: almost everything went wrong with it. I finally got rid of it when it started wailing and sounded as though I had a Banshee under the bonnet. What is your worst habit in the car? Using the phone so much, but being irritated with other drivers who do it. If I have one other failing it is trying to get from A to B in the quickest time possible, so I have to be mindful of speed. What infuriates you most about other drivers? I have no idea.

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SHOPPING

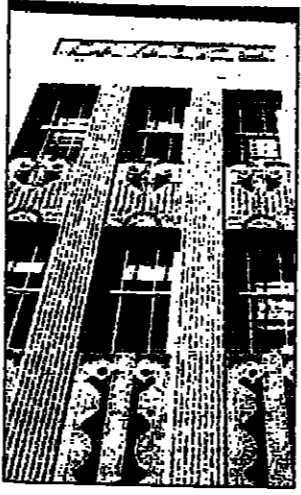


The power and the pleasure of flying a kite

Page 7

PLUS: Would you buy a tarantula? Page 4

TRAVEL



The Art Deco and other delights of Miami

Page 15

PLUS: The magic of Brazil, page 18

FOOD



Delicious free food in the country and at the seaside

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PLUS: The best of afternoon teas, page 3

GOING OUT



Classic country gardens to visit this weekend

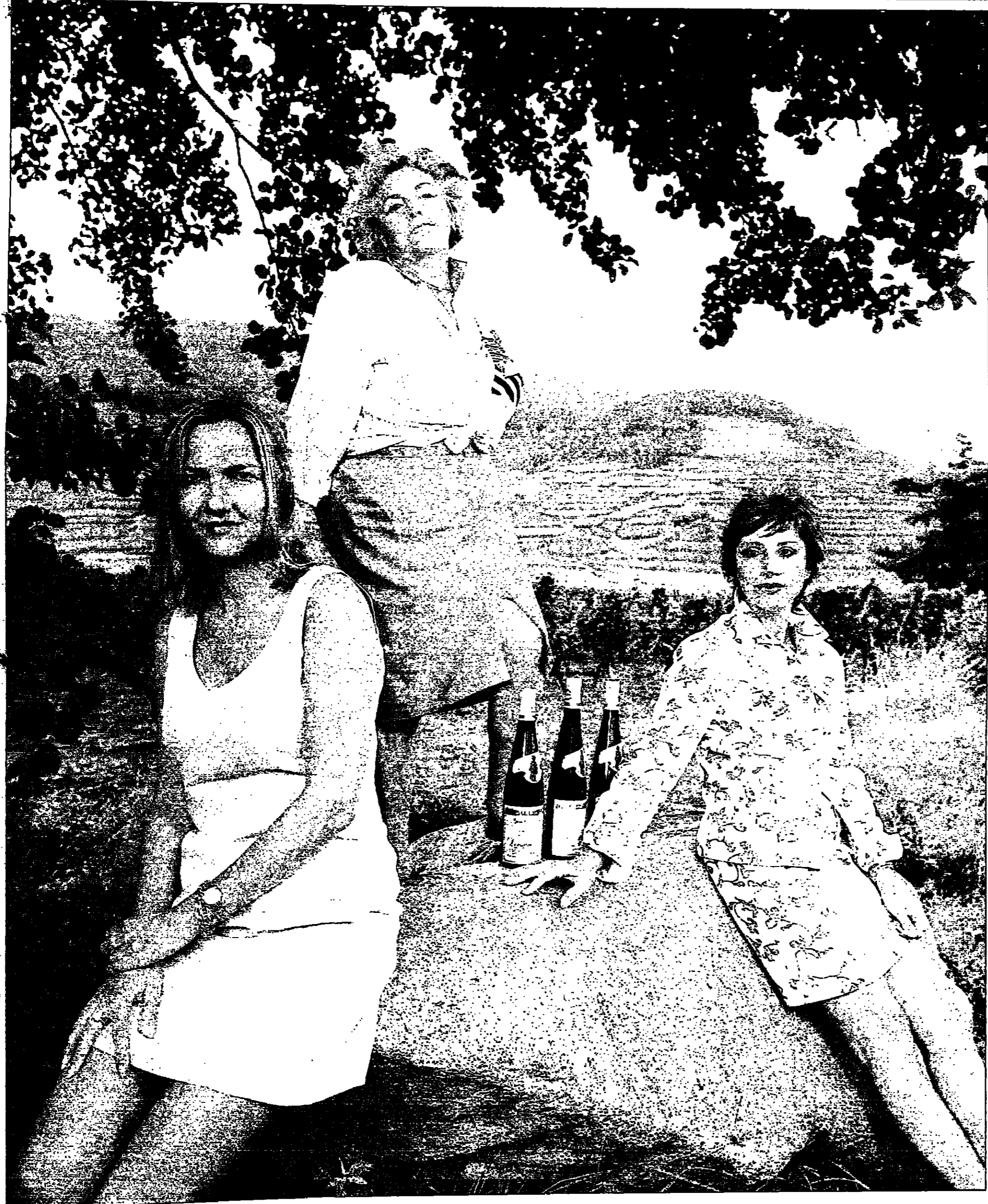
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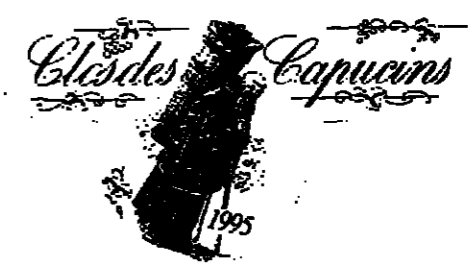
WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

LES GRANDES DAMES DU VIN



In a quiet corner of Alsace three powerful female noses control their own vineyard. Kate Muir sniffed them out



In early evening the sun comes through the wooden blinds bathing the refectory table in stripes. At harvest time this table seats 30 pickers, mostly housewives enjoying a few weeks off in the vineyards. On those days sizeable country stews are served, with wine by the litre. Tonight, however, the fare is more elegant and the finest vintages are open on the table, proudly labelled "Colette Faller et ses filles".

This is one of the few vineyards in France run by a mother and her daughters. If Domaine Weinbach at Kayserburg in Alsace is not exactly a feminist vineyard, it is certainly a feminine one. Mme Faller, widow and matriarch of all she surveys, produces wines, the guides say, of such elegance and subtlety that they could not be wrought by the hand of man.

After long experience, Mme Faller and her daughters, Cathérine and Laurence, know the proof is in the palate. They seat the photographer and me at the long table. Their assault on our tastebuds begins with a crisp '94 riesling accompanied by a white fillet of Emperor steamed with fresh ginger and leeks, then foie gras with a sweeter gewürztraminer. A muscat and a tokay appear with fresh Münster cheese with cumin, followed by melon sorbet ringed by raspberries.

Three generations of the Faller family line the long table, each tucking a time-honed nose into every glass, tasting, testing before they swallow. As guests, we lack the full-blown vocabulary of experts, but Laurence, at 29 a trained oenologist, describes the Riesling Grand Cru Schlossberg Cuvée Sainte Cathérine 1995 as having "a rich, very ripe nose, with an aroma of mango, pineapple and peach".

"Mango," we say weakly. "Of course. Couldn't be anything else."

Then Mme Faller gets out her home-made eaux-de-vie, a series of sub-nuclear fruit brandies made, basically, from the scrapings at the bottom of the barrel — the skins of plums after the juice has gone, the remains of pears. They give an alcoholic kick with barely a memory of the fruit, which madame insists we guess, sipping many times.

Like the best French people, the Fallers know the importance of eating well and drinking well — that is, after all, their business. Their kitchen, in what used to be the old monastery of Clos des Capucins, is testament to that. In the twilight, aided by the tastings of probably six different wines, the old painted pans, the iron stove and the glowing wood of the table turn the room into a painting. "It looks like a Breughel or a Vermeer," muses Laurence. "Yes, but no one smoked in a Vermeer," her mother snaps.

We are on the territory of one tough cookie, a phrase for which there is no translation in France. When Mme Faller took over her husband Théo's successful business after his death in 1979, she found that her fellow wine-growers and merchants were "correct" in their behaviour towards her, but no more. It was a struggle to convince people that the wine was as good, if not better, than before. Although France has a tradition of widows taking over the estate, such as Veuve Clicquot, until recently

Continued on page 2, col 1

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RAE

'Men smell white flowers in a wine; women detect eglantine or hawthorn'

Continued from page 1
grapes were very much male territory, like the rest of agriculture.

"I learnt everything from my husband, but I was also a good pupil," Mme Faller says later, driving like a maniac up twisting dirt roads through her vines, leaving a dust trail through the gewürztraminer and pinot gris. "I realised that the land here, and the varieties of grapes it will take, provide an extraordinary palette. There is no monotone here."

So little by little the wines, and their marketing, began to change. Catherine, 40, who has two sons, took over the commercial side of the business, and Laurence took a wine diploma after studying chemistry at university. (It seemed impolite as well as scary, to ask the well-preserved Mme Faller her age.)

The Fallers created two special crus from late harvests, named after daughters and saints: Sainte Catherine and Laurence. Only the most brave vineyard owners can risk leaving the grapes on the vine into October until they are sweet, shrivelled and ripe-to-rotting.

This is Alsace as you have seen it only on Christmas cards: half-timbered houses with multicoloured window-boxes and doors hand-painted with flowers, winding streets, cute church towers, all nestling in green valleys among rolling vines and, of course, rolling parties of tourists with camcorders.

Still, no need to sniff at the tourists. Independent visitors buying wine after a tasting in the face-slabbed front parlour, under the old tiled stove, provide almost a third of the vineyard's takings. Much of the rest of the wine goes directly to restaurants or is exported to America, Japan, and Germany. Mme Faller has traded with Oddbins in Britain, "but they want such huge quantities we can rarely

6 The whole domain is reminiscent of Dallas, with Mme Faller as Miss Ellie

fulfil them", she says. The technique of making a few thousand bottles of each wine prevents mass-marketing.

Later, in the parlour — under wall lights made of plastic grapes and paintings of the seven deadly sins, including gluttony — we try six different wines from 1995, each utterly different. I have to admit that this is my first official experience of wine tasting, though not of drinking. I am not fully *au fait* with the correct manner of sniffing, sloshing, slurping and spitting.

Laurence, however, helps with words to describe the tokay '95, such as "a taste dense and rounded, a gentle finish". She explains that within only 60 acres, Domaine Weinbach has sunny south-facing hills, valley vineyards and soils from sandy to limestone, each patch of land, like the rest of Alsace, with its own flavours. This, coupled with three finely honed female palates, results in wines sought by the best restaurants in Paris: the Crillon, the Tour d'Argent and Guy Savoy among others.

Laurence says: "Women do have a different nose for wine. They might produce something more elegant, less heavy and overblown."

As *La Revue du Vin de France* put it: "Each wine has an individual character, colour, tone and style. The Fallers ladies are veritable jewellers, cutters of diamonds which light up all the facets of the rieslings, gewürztraminers and tokays planted in the four corners of their domaine."

The whole domaine is oddly reminiscent of Dallas, with Mme Faller as the matriarchal Miss Ellie figure, prone to Texan-style jewellery and sequinned denim skirts, and the daughters as Sue Ellen and Pammy. The only men in sight



Colette Faller (far left), with her two daughters, Laurence, left, and Catherine (both standing), and two visitors: their wines have become drier to reflect recent changes in taste away from sweet, rich ones

VINEYARDS FOR SALE

IF YOU are inspired to follow the Fallers' example, finding a suitable vineyard in Britain could be difficult. They come up for sale infrequently and are usually snapped up as soon as they appear, Cheryl Taylor writes.

There is more scope in France, where a small workable vineyard in a wine-growing area in the southwest can be picked up for £200,000, with a restored farmhouse and up to 22 acres of vines. Here are three examples of vineyards on the market:

■ **FRANCE:** Château les Crocles, Provence. Refurbished 18th-century chateau with a fully equipped vineyard and estate in 217 hectares (about 536 acres), including 52.53 hectares of Côtes de Provence vines, an hour's drive from Nice airport. The house has nine bedrooms, nine bathrooms, four reception rooms, nursery, billiard room, kitchen, swimming pool, tennis court, orchard, olive grove, paddock wood and parkland. Winery

bottling room, storage, offices and staff accommodation. About £6.5 million.

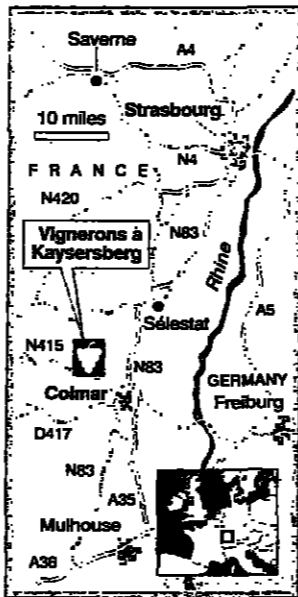
■ **GERMANY:** The Ashroft Vineyards, Hochheim am Main. Commercial vineyard in 12 hectares (about 30 acres) in the famous Rheingau district. House with manager's accommodation, staff flat, tasting rooms and estate office. Traditional winery in 18th-century cellars, bottling/packing room, workshop and stores. About £1.8 million.

■ **CORNWALL:** Hybadore, Golant-by-Fowey. Award-winning vineyard in 15 acres, with main house (former dairy), self-contained cottage, modern winery, stable block and outbuildings. The main house has two bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, cloakroom and a first floor room (60ft x 17ft) with balcony and external staircase. Offers over £350,000

The agent to contact for all three vineyards is Knight Frank (0171-629 8171).



The award-winning 15-acre Hybadore vineyard at Golant-by-Fowey, Cornwall



under my parents may no longer find it to their taste," she shrugs.

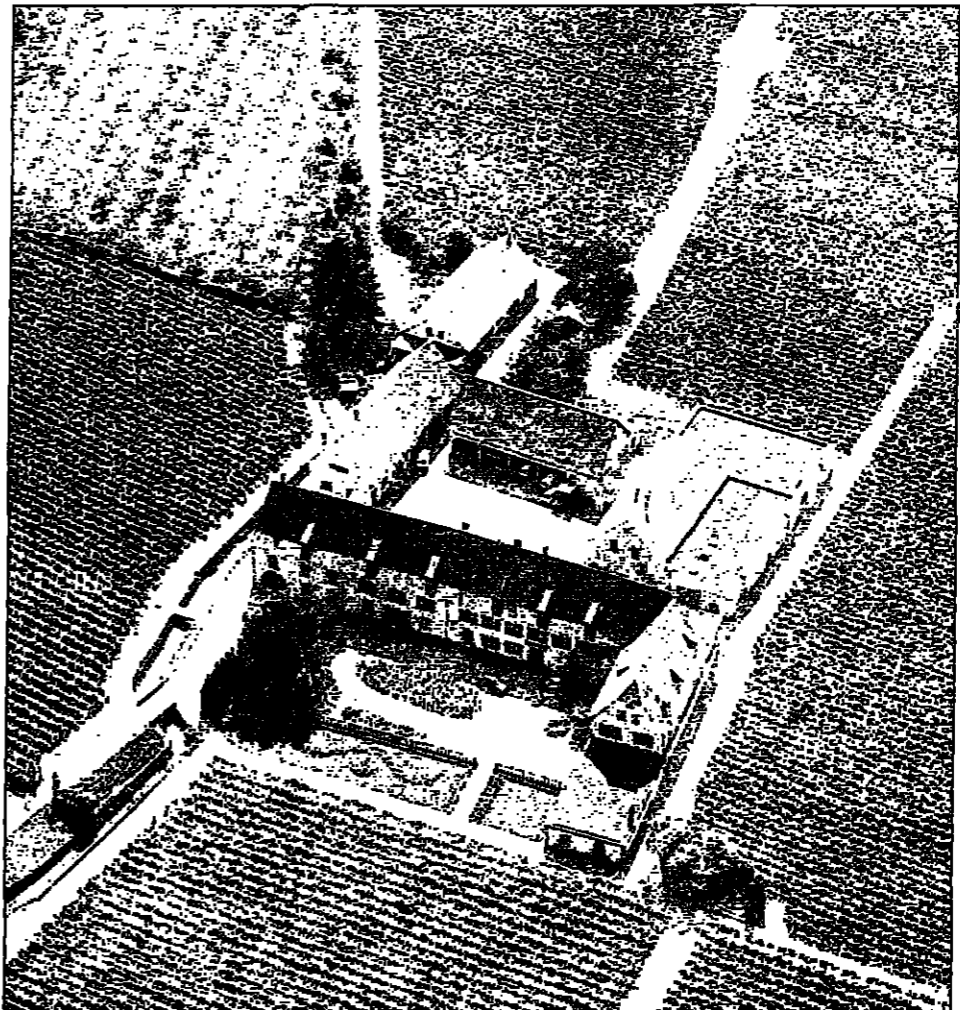
Laurence Faller says their wines have changed, too. "Many taste drier than before; it's more popular. Sweet rich wine was more 1980s style."

Such subtle alterations are possible once the methods of wine-making are made more precise. Laurence worked for a while at the huge Sonoma-Cutrer vineyards in California and learnt many of the latest techniques. The Domaine Weinbach has new stainless-steel wine presses and a pristine modern bottling and filtering plant, but the great oak barrels in the chilly 14C cellar are 80 years old and made of oak — new wood might tarnish the taste of the wine.

The whole operation, although it does not say so on the bottles, is nearly organic. Neither chemicals nor yeasts are added to the wine; fermentation is entirely natural, and no insecticides are used on the vines. The grapes are picked by hand, just as they were when the first vines were planted here by the Capuchin monks in 990. The Fallers' finest bottles, the Sélection de Grains Nobles (made from grapes affected by noble rot), are picked grape by grape resulting in a few, extraordinary wines.

The slightly tipsy monks were run out by Revolutionaries in 1799 and the land was sold to private owners, eventually the Fallers in 1898. Mme Faller, however, still has that sense of vocation about her work. "I didn't just marry a man," she says dramatically. "I married the cause of wine in Alsace."

Kate Muir on Paris page 10



The Fallers's 60-acre Domaine Weinbach, where each patch of land has its own flavours

JANE MACQUITTY GIVES HER VERDICT

My two favourite Alsace wine producers are Domaine Weinbach, run by Colette Faller and her two daughters, and Zind-Humbrecht run by Léonard Humbrecht and his son Olivier. The grape harvest from superbly sited vineyards is tiny at both properties, with yields about half the level of their competitors, so that their wines taste astonishingly rich, complex and concentrated compared with other vins d'Alsace. Once the grapes have been hand-harvested the Humbrechts' and Fallers' grapes continue to ferment and age in the most traditional manner possible, in the large old oak foudres, or vats. These were once the only vessels the Alsace region possessed but they have now been replaced elsewhere by stainless steel.



In Alsace, the patchwork plots of land, where different soils, microclimates and varieties flourish, mean that both families do all they can to keep each parcel of grapes separate, so that their quality can sing in your glass. To that end, the earth floor of the Humbrecht cellar heaves with every size and shape of vat imaginable, whereas the more spacious and majestic vaulted cellars of the Fallers offer plenty of room for the neat soldier-like rows of 6ft-tall large oval vats resting on cobblestones. And that's where the similarities stop. The full, firm Faller wines, nurtured by women, are actually rather more masculine in style than those of the supremely aromatic, rich, floral, violet and rose-scented Zind-Humbrecht wines. The other great difference between the two is that a lot of the Humbrechts' 18,000-case production is sold in Britain, compared with only a few hundred cases of the Fallers wines.

At present there are just two Fallers wines available here: the 1994 Riesling Cuvée Sainte Catherine (Oddbins £15.99), whose rich, steely, powerfully verdant style is full of green nettle and lime-like fruit (yes, it does have a finish reminiscent of peaches and mangoes), and the 1994 Tokay Pinot Gris, Réserve Particulière (Oddbins £12.99), with its wonderful, intense, spicy, nutty fruit; a great food wine with tremendous finesse.

Jane Macquitty's Drink column, Magazine, page 37

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Shirley Bond's cookbook is like a bible, with help for every day of your life. But disobey the commandments and all hell breaks loose

Thou shalt not cheat on the recipe

I don't know what you took for holiday reading this year. Cooper, Deighton, Higgins, Trollope? I shunned them all in favour of a gripping read that had me trembling at every turn of the page and held me until the very last word. It haunts me still and the urge to read it again from cover to cover is overwhelming. Nothing in the kitchen will ever be the same.

Written by Bond, Shirley Bond, this thriller bears the less than rousing title, *Home Measures*. But do not be fooled; it is a thriller of a read and, what's more, every word in it is true, I hope.

Like a bible, it has something to help you through every day of your life. For example, let us imagine that we are baking a Christmas cake. How much almond paste will we need, and how much royal icing with which to clothe it? Guess. Suppose it is a 10in square cake. Shirley Bond has the precise answer: two-and-a-quarter pounds of almond paste and two-and-a-half of royal icing.

You may know that already, but to novice cooks like me this sort of information is beyond price. As are the

exact proportions for building a wedding cake. In my nightmares I am asked to cook a three-tier wedding cake and spend the night before the nuptials working at it with an electric sander in order to give it a crafted rather than flung-together look. Well, if your bottom tier is 30.5cm, the middle 23cm and the top 15cm, your cake will look as though it has been designed by Christopher Wren himself.

Come Christmas, restless night hours will be averted by knowing in advance that to make 50 mince pies 6cm in diameter needs 1.5kg of home-made pastry and 1kg of mincemeat, and should I ever be made an honorary member of the WRVS, then I shall need to know that two pints of milk are required for every gallon of tea.

Do you ever look at a cake tin and wonder how big it is? Do you long to avoid those moments of deep despair when you pour your rich and luscious

cake mixture into the tin to find it only rises an inch up the sides, and you realise that after cooking you will need a potholer to extract it? Bond can help you.

She says: "Fill [the tin] to the very top with water, or to the height you want the finished cake to be. Tip the water into a measuring jug and read the capacity. Make one-and-a-half pounds of fruit cake mixture for every pint of water measured." Magic.

I assume she is right. It would be a cruel betrayal if she kidded us about the capacity of standard-sized pudding bowls or how many profiteroles to the kilogram of choux pastry (65g makes 20, apparently).

Convincing though it all sounds, I

HOME MADE



Paul Heiney

decided to test it and took as my starting point the hand-ed-down wisdom that a successful Swiss roll can only be baked in a correctly sized Swiss roll tin. Too big a tin leaves an unrollable Swiss lump; too thick gives you indigestion because the middle will not be cooked when the outside is a nice shade of brown.

So, if you are using the standard recipe of 4oz flour, 4oz caster sugar and three eggs, do not dare attempt a Swiss roll unless the tin is 9in by 13in by 3in. I sent out for a new one for the occasion, noting how the family seem only too ready to undertake errands which involve leaving the house when I am at the stove.

According to the label on the new num-

stick, it was one-sixteenth of an inch shorter and three-sixteenths deeper than Shirley Bond insists. Surely, this could not matter?

I whisked the eggs and sugar till thick, foamy and pale yellow; then sieved the flour on to a plate.

Opinion seems to vary about the flour. Even the Aga cookbook writers, those Old Testament scribes of the home-comfort school of cookery, cannot decide whether to use plain or self-raising. I used the latter for the simple reason that there was none of the former, hoping that such serendipity may prove the basis of great cuisine, as in the sandwich.

I folded the flour into the whisked mixture, carefully so as not to release the air and, with my breath held, poured the mixture into the tin. It fitted. It really fitted. Neither too much, nor too little.

Good old Shirley. She now has my complete trust. When she says that 3oz of suet mixture makes 16 dumplings, I shall never doubt her.

I cooked my Swiss roll for ten minutes, and it was gloriously light and browned. It came out of the tin with no trouble despite enjoying the perfect fit, and then a fearful thought occurred. Would it roll? It would not. It went so far but then cracks appeared as deep as the bed of a Yorkshire reservoir in summer. I half expected to see a tiny environment secretary standing in the middle of it for a photo-opportunity.

Sadly, I let the sponge flop back, unrolled. I blame those extra three-sixteenths on the depth. I told you it was like a bible; disobey the commandments, put in an extra cubit of gopher-wood without divine authority, and all hell will break loose.

As for the Swiss unroll, I spread it thickly with double cream, sliced strawberries on top, cut it in half and made the best of a bad job. A sandwich.

Home Measures by Shirley Bond is published by Grub Street, £7.99.

CHOCOLATE BOX

DIABETIC chocolate is a great concept. As chocolate depends for its appeal on fat — cocoa solids and butter — and sugar, and the current thinking on sensible eating for diabetics is to cut the intake of both, the idea of a chocolate safe for diabetics is highly attractive. In various retailers and even chemists' shops you will see confectionery labelled as suitable for diabetics.

You might think that the British Diabetic Association would be happy to endorse it. You'd be wrong. "A waste of time," says an association spokeswoman. "It is up to four times as expensive as ordinary chocolate, often just as high in fat and calories; and the types of sweeteners used instead of sugar can have a laxative effect if you eat a lot of one go. It won't do you any harm, but it won't do you any good, either."

It seems that these products originally came onto the market when official thinking was that diabetics should have a high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet. Not now. High levels of fibre, low levels of fat — especially saturated fat — and the control of sugar intake, are the watchwords. "About 80 per cent of non-insulin dependent diabetics are overweight, and besides, foods high in fat are bad because of fat's role in heart disease," says a BDA dietician. It should be emphasised that every diabetic's dietary needs will be different, and one-to-one consultation is essential.

THE BDA leaflet, *Food & Diabetes - How to get it right*, contains the suggestion: "As long as your day-to-day eating is healthy and, on the whole, your blood glucose levels are good, the occasional celebration meal or little bit of chocolate will do you no harm. Enjoy it and carry on." The association's *Eating Well with Diabetes* has the admonition: "Avoid special diabetic products. They can be expensive and offer no special health benefit."

The best consolation for chocolate fans who are diagnosed as diabetic is along the lines of: "You can eat ordinary chocolate, but only occasionally, and only a little." So just one square of Valrhona for me, thanks.

TONY PATRICK

For more information, contact the British Diabetic Association (01753 534; fax 01753 3644) at 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD. There is also a *Varoline*, on 01753 6112. Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Go wild for free

BACK FROM holiday in Devon and Wales, it struck me how much of a free open larder the country is and what little use we make of it. In Devon, I netted wriggling thumb-sized prawns, in Wales I picked pea-sized, sweet wild cherries, sharp blueberries and wild sorrel for salads.

Whether it is cockles from the Gower Peninsula or the Southampton Sound, marsh samphire from Norfolk, cob nuts from Kent, crab apples from the New Forest, damsons from Cumbria or chanterelles from the Highlands, every area seems to have some wild food to offer. But blackberries apart, we seem reluctant to play the role of hunter-gatherer.

Why is this? Could it be that we are too bone idle? Or are we too nervous of being poisoned? If the latter is the case, then you can do no better than consult Roger Phillips's *Wild Food* (Macmillan, £12.99). A classic of its kind, there are helpful photographs to point you in the right direction.

Now the mushroom season has started, you should also get hold of a copy of Roger Phillips's *Mushrooms* (Macmillan £12.99). He may not tell you where the best spots are — no true mycologist ever would — but armed with his book you will be able to identify your pickings. Failing that, Valvona & Crolla, 19 Elm Row, Edinburgh is running mushroom identification "surgeries" on September 2, 16 and 30 under Dr Watling of Edinburgh's Botanical Gardens. Ring 0131-556 6066 for details.

And if you need help finding the little blighters, the Tasty Mushroom Partnership is organising all-day forays from hotels, starting on September 2 in Derbyshire and continuing in Norfolk, Shropshire, Crampian and Hampshire, until mid-October. Contact Peter Jordan, Poppy Cottage, Station Road, Burnham Market, Norfolk PE31 8HA (01328 738841).

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TOMORROW

GALES

Windy

The outlook is good: from prawns in Devon to crab apples in the New Forest and cob nuts in Kent, every area in Britain has a wealth of wild food waiting to be harvested

The outlook is good: from prawns in Devon to crab apples in the New Forest and cob nuts in Kent, every area in Britain has a wealth of wild food waiting to be harvested

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) settled on. However, Britain's finest beef comes from our traditional, native pure-breeds — the Herefords, Ruby Reds, Welsh Blacks, Callows and Highland cattle. They are reared on grass, hay and silage, and allowed to develop and mature at their natural pace. This gives great depth and flavour to the meat. The cattle diet is about as wholesome as you can get, with no antibiotics or concentrates to boost their growth. It's a slow process where nothing is forced and, depending on where the cattle graze and at what time they are born, it means that they will not be ready for the table until way past 30 months, the slaughter-by date.

Peter Greig, of Pipers Farm, rears North Devons (Ruby Reds). He was so upset by the cut-off date that he joined forces with other farmers and lobbied MAFF for a Mature Beef Assurance Scheme, proposing standards that would guarantee a safe, quality beef. After months of negotiation,

MAFF has now decided to go ahead, but it has laid such stringent conditions that Mr Greig fears that few of our 2,000 traditional beef farmers will be able to comply. So we are back to square one and the

DIGEST



Henrietta Green

lovers of best British beef will still be starved of supplies. If you want to know more about the scheme or to try Mr Greig's beef — from cattle under 30 months old, of course — contact him at Pipers Farm, Cullompton, Exeter, Devon EX15 1SD (01392 881380).

Cure all

IF, LIKE ME, you prefer kippers cured and smoked from locally landed fresh herrings — this is your opportunity. Most kippers on sale come from frozen herrings imported from Iceland. While there is nothing wrong with that — the fish are plump and juicy, and suffer no loss of flavour in being frozen — I prefer buying British fish.

Kippers have been smoked for generations at L. Robson of Craster, Northumberland. But nowadays far fewer British fish are landed as our stocks have never properly recovered from overfishing in the 1970s. The herring-for-kipper season on the North East coast used to last from mid-May through to September, now it runs from mid-July to August. After that, the fish start to spawn, reducing their oil content, making them unacceptable for a good kipper, and also relatively small.

At this time of year, L. Robson will mail-order kippers from locally landed her-

rings. Boxes start from 454g (£3.20 incl p&p), which should give you between 12 and 15 kippers. But hurry, stocks only last until the end of the month, then it is back to the Icelandic herring stock.

For more information, contact L. Robson, Haven Hill, Craster, Northumberland NE66 3TR (01665 576223).

Hey pesto

IT SEEMS incredible that pesto — a glorious green confection of basil, pine kernels, olive oil and parmesan cheese that cheers up any pasta — has been with us for such a short time.

Apart from Italian specialist delis, it was first imported by the Italian manufacturer Sacla in 1989. In those days only 100,000 jars were sold, but now sales have rocketed to near the six million mark, and cost about £1.49 a jar.

Unlike the poor sun-dried tomato that has suffered the fickle fate of fashion, sales show no signs of falling. Even as I write, the basil is being

harvested in Liguria and, to give the sun-dried tomato a chance, Sacla has added it to make red pesto. Fashion freaks and Italians may not approve, but I rather like it.

It's available from all good supermarkets nationwide. Fiona Beckett is away

More food and drink in the Magazine

"Virtually the perfect summer book. No deck-chair will be complete without it" - *Independent*

LYNNE TRUSS

Tennyson's Gift

"An enormously entertaining novel... a fast-moving farce which allows her sideswipes at the foibles of the famous" - *Sunday Telegraph*

"A comic novel of subtle distinction... a richly entertaining book, and at times a very moving one" - *The Times*

"A rollicking read. It is mischievous, light-hearted and fun" - *Literary Review*

"Wildly witty" - *Daily Mail*

On your skates for a tea party

SUMMER AFTERNOON TEA

Serves four

Cucumber and prawn sandwiches
Cinnamon toast
Lemon syrup cake
Peaches and strawberries

FAST FOOD

the sides and top are covered in the sugar syrup.

■ **Make sandwiches**
Spread eight thin slices of white bread with a little cream cheese. Cover four slices with thin slices of cucumber and 100g (4oz) prawns. Season with salt and black pepper.

Put the other slices of bread on top. Cut the crusts off the sandwiches (it makes all the difference) and cut each sandwich into four triangles.

■ **Make cinnamon toast**
Toast four thin slices of white bread on one side under a grill. Spread them on the

untoasted side with a generous amount of butter and sprinkle ½ tbs caster sugar and a large pinch of ground cinnamon over each one. Put back under the grill until the sugar melts to a nice buttery crust. Take care the edges of the bread do not burn. Cut into fingers.

■ **Prepare fruit**
Wash 500g (1lb 2oz) strawberries, but you do not need to hull them. Wash four peaches.

Why has tea gone out of fashion? A big tea is the perfect meal before an evening out. It does not involve much food, and can be made in advance, which is the essence of easy entertaining. It can be expanded to feed any number of people, including greedy children. But the real joy of afternoon tea is the opportunity to indulge in buttered toast, little sandwiches and sweet, sticky cakes.

■ **Tart up bought cake**
Mix the juice of a lemon with 75g (3oz) caster sugar. Pour it over 300g (1lb) bought made-up cake during the cake so

eration of Americans who have grown up with Disney

Shopping List

Fruit 1 lemon ½ cucumber 500g (1lb 2oz) strawberries 4 peaches	Dairy 30g (1oz) cream cheese milk for tea 30g (1oz) butter
Store cupboard 75g (3oz) caster sugar 2tbs caster sugar 1tsp ground cinnamon Earl grey or Darjeeling tea	Fish 100g (4oz) cooked prawns
	Bakery 300g (1lb) madeira cake 12 thin slices white bread

For some reason, tea does taste better in bone-china cups, so dig them out from the back of the cupboard. If you feel like a bit of Merchant-livory film-glamour, then find a table-cloth as well.

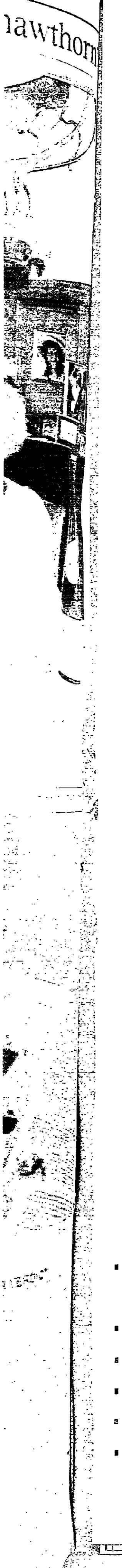
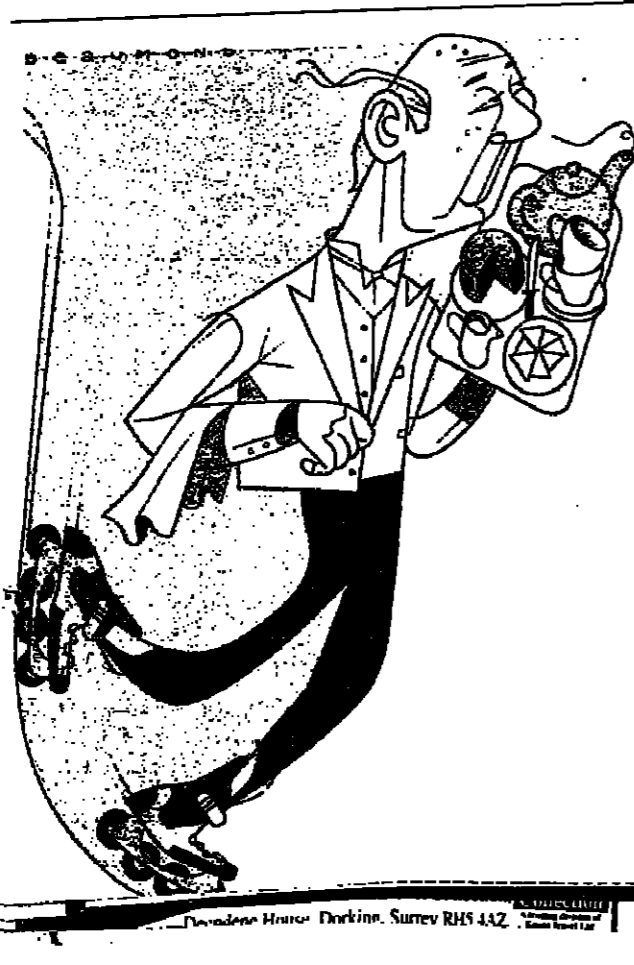
Make Earl Grey or Darjeeling tea in a teapot. Put all the food on plates and let everyone help themselves.

HATTIE ELLIS

THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE NINETTES CAN YOU ALWAYS GET YOUR COPY?

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PETS

A new puppy by any other name

Choosing what to call your pet can be hard work — and likely to cause a heated family debate or offend your best friends



PAUL BURGESS

So Puppy it is... at least until we can think of something better, if not more suitable. My parents are about to acquire a Labrador retriever bitch puppy and the entire family is embroiled in the great naming debate — and the unexpected reasons why our particular choices just won't do.

The rules are: the name must suit the large and dignified dog she will surely be, and each of the seven owners' somewhat eccentric requirements. Bearing in mind that four of the potential owners are boys with definite ideas on the subject, the battle will not be easily won by the others.

Lesson number one: naming a

dog after a person, even inadvertently, isn't the done thing: it will not be taken as a compliment. So my mother's first choice, Sophie and Zara, had to be ruled out after I reminded her that these are the names of two of my best friends, who are sisters. Along with their brother, Toby, they are already convinced that their parents named the three of them after dogs.

So what about Emma, my mother said. No: she's another friend. Fortunately a male point of view

was offered here: Emma would make her sound too much like a girl, said my father.

After moving away from the names of my friends, my mother progressed swiftly to a woodland theme. With a penchant for the weird at the best of times, she plumped for Fern. Or Bracken. Worse still, Pansy. These were soon dismissed by my brothers as too girly, and too embarrassing to call across a crowded beach. As were, thankfully, Poppy, Daisy and

Susie. These are names for little dogs, yappy dogs, not like our Puppy. So it had to be a name a man can shout in public, in front of his friends, without compromising himself. No, Daisy wouldn't do.

Well, how about a sporting name — like Cantona? According to the Kennel Club, at least four dogs have registered that name, including Eric the highland terrier. But no, that wasn't right either. So, our choices went from bad to worse. Bess and Holly were thrown into

the ring, quickly followed by Magnolia (well, she does have a cream coat). But my mother was confidently proclaimed that the matter would be decided in the same way as when naming a baby. We'll know what to call her, when we see her, she said.

Hopefully this will provide the answer, because our other dog, Jess, still answers to Puppy after another naming dispute seven years ago.

After meeting "Puppy" my mother immediately decided on Ella, the Elephant, because of the newcomer's enormous feet.

Who do I know called Ella?

AMANDA LOOSE

Despite their creepy-crawliness and cannibalistic lifestyle, tarantulas are growing in popularity as pets



TONY STONE

To many people, this Mexican Red Knee tarantula is far from fearsome and makes an ideal pet: it takes up minimum space and costs little to feed. However, buying one will set you back £90-£150

If you like hairy legs ...

To most of people, spiders are creatures that live in the garden shed or an undisturbed part of the house. It's a live-and-let-live sort of arrangement which breaks down when they trespass on our territory. Just when you thought it was safe to go into the bathroom, they come up through the plug-hole.

But to a dedicated few, spiders — or arachnids as they are correctly termed — are much-loved pets, and Dr Robert Bustard, a Perthshire-based scientist, says the popularity of the arachnid is growing.

Tarantulas have replaced stick insects as the convenience pets of the 1990s, says Dr Bustard, who is one of the country's leading tarantula breeders. They are easy to care for and require little space. They are also less boring to watch than stick insects.

Dogs and cats need constant attention but a tarantula's owner can go away for up to two weeks without worrying, so long as he or she leaves out food and water.

The name "tarantula" was originally given to the wolf spider but, according to London Zoo, the term has come to be used for many large spiders which originate from the tropical rainforests.

Tarantulas and other spiders are

classified as arachnids. There are at least 600 species of arachnid, says Dr Bustard, who believes that this number is just the tip of the iceberg, with many more species as yet undiscovered.

Ninety-five per cent of the spiders kept as pets in Britain are tarantulas. Because they are not dangerous, there is no special legislation governing their role as pets. (Certain more venomous arachnids, however, are subject to stringent regulations.)

The popularity of the tarantula is mainly due to its large size, says Dr Bustard, who specialises in the bigger varieties — not the sort of thing you would expect from a man who admits being phobic about spiders when growing up in Australia. As a boy he was told by his parents not to go near small spiders. The infamous black widow, one of the deadliest spiders in the world, is little bigger than the common British house spider. Tarantulas, by comparison, are pussy cats. But while you might happily

allow your cat to curl up in your lap, having your friendly tarantula about your person is a more risky business. Risky, that is, for the tarantula.

"The first thing I tell potential tarantula owners is not to handle them," says Ann Webb, the aptly named honorary secretary of the British Tarantula Society and author of *The Proper Care of Tarantulas*. "They are delicate creatures and you could kill them if handled without the greatest of care. The already fragile structure of the tarantula is even more vulnerable when it sheds its skin once a year," she says.

Contrary to popular belief, the tarantula is unlikely to kill a human. Although the tarantula's bite contains venom it is not enough to kill, unless you suffer an allergic reaction. Mrs Webb compares the bite with the sting of a bee or wasp.

Tarantulas are unlikely to bite anyway. "They are not particularly aggressive," she says. This lack of

aggression is because most pet tarantulas have been bred in captivity. Tarantulas are cannibals and are far more likely to direct whatever aggression they have at another of their own kind.

Anyone considering keeping them as pets should bear in mind that each tarantula has to be housed alone. The only time they can be put together is for mating — and even then they must be parted soon after.

Each tarantula must be kept in a terrarium, a glass container a little bigger than a large shoe box. The terrarium needs careful heating and part of it should be kept at around 75F while the rest is kept cooler, says Kirk Chapman, of the Coulsdon Pet Centre in Surrey, who started keeping tarantulas eight years ago. "When tarantulas are feeding they move to the warmer area," he says.

Food is the only expense a tarantula owner has once a terrarium

and its accompanying heat mat, which maintains temperature, have been bought. The tarantula is carnivorous and you will need to keep a steady food supply available for your exotic pet, but they do not need to eat every day.

Mr Chapman feeds his six tarantulas on live crickets, locusts and the occasional frozen pink mouse (a term for a baby mouse). One hundred crickets or locusts will set you back about £2; a pink mouse costs about 35p. Apparently, one of the attractions of owning a tarantula is watching it trap its prey when it feeds.

They also need water. Mr Chapman says, and it's best to put cotton wool in the dish to prevent the tarantula falling in and drowning. The terrarium should be mist-sprayed once a week to maintain the humidity.

The cost of buying a tarantula varies. A lot of people start off with a breed known as a Chile Rose, which cost about £15 each. Prices start to rise from there: a Mexican

Red Knee or a Bird Eater can set you back £90-£150.

Tarantulas, in common with all pets, should not be an impulse buy. Mrs Webb says, and you must have a home ready before you buy one. Its average lifespan is five years for the male, but the female can live to about 15.

There is also the addictive aspect of keeping a tarantula to consider. While you might not fall in love with your creepy-crawly, you could, Dr Bustard warns, become enthralled to such a degree that one is not enough.

"People start with a single tarantula but soon buy more and more because they want one of every different type," he says.

BRENDAN MARTIN

For further information contact Ann Webb, of the British Tarantula Society, on 01823 85071. Her book, *The Proper Care of Tarantulas*, is published by TFH Publications, The Spinney, Parklands, Forest Road, Denmead, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 6AR (01705 268122). £12.95.

For London Zoo's leaflet, "Keeping a Spider", send an SAE with your cheque for 50p, made payable to the Zoological Society of London, to: The Education Department, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

Sky-high snack for anteaters

Feather Report

ON SULTRY days in late July and early August ants go on the spree. Thousands of winged males and females soar into the air to meet each other and mate. Afterwards the males die, while the females who have mated successfully come back to earth, shuffle off their wings and go underground to lay their eggs. Both black garden ants and red meadow ants mate like this, sometimes on the same day.

But their merrymaking is often rudely interrupted. The other day I saw a flock of black-headed gulls climbing and twisting about in the sky in a most ungainly way. There were also many starlings zooming and gliding among them. All of them had abandoned their normal way of life to feast on one of these swarms of flying ants, and were doing it very successfully.

Birds on the ground also feed on the winged ants as they come out of their nests, and when they fall later back to earth. House sparrows and pied wagtails are quite adept at leaping into the air and catching an insect flying near them.

MANY species, in fact, do a bit of aerial catching when winged insects are abundant. I have seen bullfinches and chaffinches hover or flutter over a branch to get them, and in spring especially, when the first flies appear, willow warblers and chiffchaffs are always leaping up among the young leaves in pursuit of them.

I also saw a few house martins joining in the chase of the flying ants. Swallows generally hunt closer to the ground; however, I expect some came swooping along where the ants were taking off.

But it was too late for the swifts to enjoy the bonanza. They have had a disastrously rainy summer, which made it difficult for them to find enough aerial plankton to feed their young, and in many nests all the chicks died. The parents have given up, and migrated back to sunny Africa.

DERWENT MAY

What's about Birders — watch out for young swallows and house martins gathering with adults on telephone wires. Twickers — black-winged pratincole at Moniekie Country Park, Angus; little bittern at Fleet Pond, Hampshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 70222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.



PETER BROWN

A feast for black-headed gulls

The food to make a cat grin

A Vet Writes...

What is the best food for cats? There are raw meat advocates, chicken enthusiasts, and indulgent owners believing their cat is unique because it will eat only liver, salmon, lights, or best steak. They justify pandering to these feline whims because meat and fish are "natural" foods.

Cats are total carnivores, with precise dietary requirements. They must have ready-made vitamin A. Dogs and humans can turn carotene from vegetables into vitamin A, cats can't. They get it only from animal fat. The same considerations apply to some B vitamins and certain amino acids. Most species can convert one protein to another, cats can't. Their essential proteins must come from meat.

Our cats' wild ancestors caught their prey and ate it, freshly killed — fur, feathers, a bit of bone, heart, liver, pieces of intestine, along with fat and

contains everything a cat needs. When your cat comes home with a pigeon, rabbit or mouse, and dismembers it on the kitchen floor, that's natural. It's messy but such mixed prey provides a perfect diet. So does good quality proprietary cat food, canned or dry, from one of the "big name" manufacturers. And this man-made mixture won't pass on disease. Cats get tapeworms

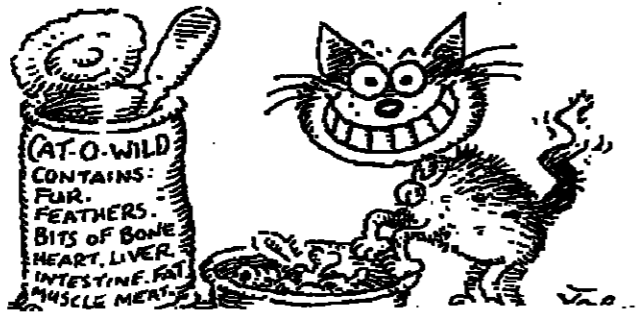
by eating mice. They catch, and transmit, toxoplasma when raw rat and vole are included in the *plat du jour*.

If your cat enjoys a piece of liver, raw cod or steamed Dover sole occasionally, it won't harm it. But living on liver alone can cause severe spinal trouble resulting from a deficiency of calcium and phosphorus and an excess of vitamin A — yes, too much

can be as bad as too little. A dish of raw fish every day, and nothing else, leads to Chastek paralysis — a thiamine deficiency.

And what about milk? Cats enjoy it but their digestive enzymes don't deal well with lactose (milk sugar), and milk *ad lib* can cause chronic diarrhoea. Water is safer. Cats living on canned food, meat or fish do not drink much because the cans contain at least 75 per cent water, which is nearly all the fluid a cat needs. Dried food has less than 10 per cent water, so your cat has to drink to top up. This is critical: if it doesn't take this extra water the urine concentrates and crystals can form in the bladder causing cystitis. Painful for she-cats and more serious, even fatal, for toms.

If your cat has ever had bladder trouble, avoid dried foods, otherwise make certain there is plenty to drink.



Dogged determination

INCLUDED in the Spillers' ten-day Festival of Working Dogs starting today and running until Monday, August 26 at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex, are sheepdog and gundog trials, obedience training and dog racing with greyhounds, whippets, lurchers, terriers and the barkless basenjis. For owners who keep themselves as fit as their pets there is the biathlon — an obstacle course which involves you and your dog clambering, crawling, jumping, running and coping with wet and muddy terrain. Information from freephone 0800 738 2273.

Prize carp

PETE WATERMAN, the pop producer, keeps koi carp at his home in Cheshire in an area of water about the size of four Olympic swimming pools. Not long ago he added to his collection with a prize specimen bought in Japan for £100,000. His ambition is to breed from this fish, and he may

PET NEWS

his outlay by selling the offspring at about £2,000 each, according to Andrew MacKinnon, writing on "Why Are Koi So Special?" in this month's *Pet Business News*.

Just joking

EXPECT a rash of cute pet books hitting the shelves well before Christmas. Coming soon: *The Awfully Good Cat Joke Book* by David Jacobs and illustrator Trevor Dunton (Metro, £4.99). Here is a sample: How do you describe a cat doing nothing in particular? Answer: Pussy-footing around. What describes a cat in a panic? Answer: A cat flap.

Readers may think they can produce some better jokes than this. Samples sent to Pet News will be forwarded to the publishers.

Sound idea

CAN YOU name all the birds in your garden by their song only? *Garden Bird Sounds*, an excellent

birds. Cassette £6.99 plus £1.50 p&p, CD £10.99 plus £1.50 p&p. Details from WildSounds, Cross Street, Norfolk NR25 7XH (01263 741100).

Root cause

MORE THAN 85 per cent of dogs over four years old have periodontal disease, the most common cause of tooth-loss and bad breath, says Kelly Gardner in *Gamekeeper & Sporting Dog*. A booklet, *Dog Owners' Guide to Proper Dental Care*, costs £1.25 from Mailsales, PO Box 15, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 6BQ.

Hot stuff

I AM indebted for the following to Stringer's Last Word, a jolly weekly column by Roy Stringer in *Cage & Aviary Birds*. He related the tale of a pigeon that set fire to a tree when it tried to line its nest with a burning cigarette end, and reported on research from Edinburgh University showing that horses that travel to races facing backwards perform better than those facing forwards. "Should we try the same experiment with our birds going to shows?" he asks.

John 11:50

GARDENING

Raking up the past

A little detective work could unearth an old Victorian garden, says Stephen Anderton

Gardens do not have to run to acres to have historic bones. Lurking beneath the shrubberies of many a town or country garden can be features or plants of Victorian origin. Once recognised, they may well be worth preserving or developing.



Old iron rollers often survive

Occasionally, something particularly tough escapes both the spade and old age, and lingers quietly, a testament to a garden's origins, a little bit of Capability Smith or Jones. Look out for old trees of box, particularly at the edge of a shrubbery rather than the back. They may be a remnant of what was once an edging. Box is slow to develop heavy wood and if you find trunks of 4in thick or more you are dealing with plants of a considerable age.

outlast many of the other evergreens planted alongside them. If you want to revive an evergreen shrubbery there is no need to stick solely with the survivors. Add some of the less persistent favourites, such as Osmanthus decorus for its sweetly-scented flowers, and Mahonia aquifolium and sarcococca as a suckering edging. Golden yew and holly will also live things up, as will a rambling rose here and there.

Regular coppicing can lengthen the life of a tree or shrub by many times its usual span. Small-leaved limes can live for 1,200 years and philadelphus and deutzia - garden shrubs which you would expect to last 30-40 years - can last 100. Look for the woody, stooled bases. There may still be forgotten varieties hanging on in older gardens. Even herbaceous plants can linger a long time. Paeonies can last for generations.

The three laurels and rhododendrons were a staple of Victorian gardens, easy to grow, evergreen and with plenty of fruit and flower. Their indestructibility has allowed them to



The rhododendron was a Victorian favourite. Its hardiness has made it outlast many other evergreens

shade almost forever - or at least until the trees die and conditions allow more rampant sun-loving species to smother them.

The hardware of Victorian and Edwardian gardens lingers more obviously. There are, for example, the rope-tile edgings in dark brown or grey glazed terracotta used to contain gravel or cinder paths. These are now being manufactured again and so the theme can be redeveloped around a garden. Iron garden rollers linger if only because they are too heavy to dispose of.

Victorian houses are often the greatest repositories of period hardware. How often do you see brick-stuccoed gateposts, and huge lime trees far too big for the house but now protected by urban legislation? And behind that, if all has not been cleared for car parking, mounded beds or shrubberies edged with rope tiles, or perhaps somewhere in the gravel or Tarmac a circular bed, which was filled with brightly coloured bedding 100 years ago? There may be "rockery" work, too. Not

necessarily chunks of real stone but those conglomerations of glass or caking slag, of which the Victorians were so fond. Perhaps, too, there may be remnants of coloured glass or white spar chips, once used as an

alternative or adjunct to bedding. None of this may be fit to save but it deserves investigation. And it is worth considering what kind of garden a house originally had, why it was chosen and how it worked with the house: formality with formality, or rustic with rustic. After that comes the pleasure of deciding how to incorporate these remnants into your new garden, if they deserve it. Sometimes the most satisfying gardens are those where you can see the gradual development over time, where Smith has adapted Jones as Jones previously adapted Brown. Old bones may not be exciting in themselves but the bones of an old garden can be a good opportunity on which to develop a new garden after your own taste.

For further information, write to the Association of County Garden Truss, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP, enclosing an SAE, or contact the Garden History Society 0171-608 2309 at the same address.

Gardens to visit, page 13

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q Can you recommend an adhesive or some other means of repairing terracotta pots? - R. Trewellard, Penzance, Cornwall.

A There are so many good pots available that I would hesitate to repair old ones: they are never reliable again. Traditionally, the broken pieces were drilled and wired together. The best adhesives are the epoxy resin type, such as are used for repairing china. The adhesive will not last forever, because the pot is porous and water or salts will loosen the grip but it should last a few years. A combination of adhesive and wires will guard against sudden disintegration and further breakage.

the bushes are never leafless for long and thus seriously weakened.

Q My soil is sandy and, despite adding plenty of compost and watering during drought, roses do not do well. My favourite rose, 'Sutter's Gold', a deep gold flushed with pink, has survived, but I lost the others. Where can I buy more 'Sutter's Gold'? - Mrs E.W. Bathgate, Copar, Fife.

A 'Sutter's Gold' is an upright growing hybrid tea rose and this group do not do well on sand. You might have more success on sand with rugosa roses, or hybrid musks, or Scotch briar roses (varieties of R. pimpinellifolia). You can buy 'Sutter's Gold' from rose specialists such as David Austin (E25 minimum charge) or Peter Beales (no minimum charge) or from smaller firms such as Burrows Roses, Meadow Croft, Spondon Road, Dale Abbey, Derby DE7 4PQ (E3 minimum charge) and Gandy's Roses, North Kilworth, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 6HZ.

Q I have several Skimmia japonica 'Nyman's' and 'Rubella', which are 11 years old and doing well but getting too big - about 40in high and 45in across. The gardening books say no pruning is needed. Can I reduce them and, if so, how and when? - Mrs R. Rayment, Twickenham, Middlesex.

A Skimmia are a tough evergreen berrying bush but slow growing and easily shocked. They do not sprout so easily from old wood. If you can, nibble back and thin your bushes to the required size, cutting in spring just before growth starts. If you have to be more drastic, do it in stages, taking down a third of the branches each year, so that

Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Trim faded flower stalks of lavender bushes and hedges and pinch out subsequent shoots to encourage bushiness. Avoid cutting hard into old shoots, because they are reluctant to sprout again. Sow winter spinach in rows 4in apart, for cropping from November. Set new strawberry plants in soil enriched with manure or old compost. Liquid feed late-flowering dematis every two weeks and water weekly in hot weather.

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Advertisement for 'The Treske Shop' furniture, including an image of a table and chair.

Advertisement for 'INDIVIDUALLY MADE-TO-MEASURE SKIRTS & TROUSERS' with an image of a skirt and trousers.

Advertisement for 'Potence-E FOR THE MALE SEX' with an image of a bottle.

Advertisement for 'BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS' featuring a dining table and chairs.

Advertisement for 'BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS' featuring a cabinet and other furniture.

Large advertisement for 'New Driving Iron Challenges Woods on Distance. Sets a World Record.' featuring images of golf clubs and text about the 'Controller Driving Iron'.

Play it just by a few

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Kite-flying is no longer child's play. Thanks to the latest stunt models it has taken off as a family pastime

Play the power game just by pulling a few strings



Children adore it and parents can hardly resist it either: not only does the air and exercise tame hyperactive youngsters, but it can also satisfy a teenager's need to look "cool".

Kite-flying can be peaceful and relaxing, or an adrenalin-soaked, physically exhausting affair. Unlike tennis, it needn't depend on strength and stamina, so father is not automatically star of the show.

Far from being child's play, kite-flying has become mainly an adult pastime, largely because of the advent of power-kiting. Big power kites have been around since the early 1980s but it's only now, in line with the fashion for adventure/exhilaration sports, that power-kiting has taken off in mass-market terms. (Power-kiting means forward propulsion using a kite, from roller-blading to kite-skiing on water or snow.)

Kite-bugging, using an agile three-wheeler steered with the feet for example, is a popular pastime in London on Blackheath or Hackney Marshes. It's cheaper and requires less room than sand-yachting. For serious daredevils there's the dangerous kite-jumping: the kite catapults you up off the ground and you then glide or plummet back down. The world record jump is a nail-biting 32 metres (about 105ft) long at a height of about 12 metres (about 40ft).

Kites, invented in China about 3,000 years ago, have progressed further since the Kite Store opened in Covent Garden, London, in 1976. Gone are the days of the canvas and wood box kites. By the early 1990s steerable, acrobatic, two-line stunt kites were outselling their static, non-maneuvrable single-line counterparts by around 4:1.

Kites have turned high-tech, borrowing from other sports, such as sailing (adopting lightweight, non-porous ripstop nylon sails), archery (ultra-light carbon fibre frames) and fishing (high-performance Dyneema and Spectra

KITES IN FLIGHT

1 **WORLDS APART BLAZER** (£9.99)

A traditional two-line stunt kite with long flowing tail. For stockists ring 0171-822 0171.

2 **WORLDS APART VORTEX** (£35)

Intermediate level, from age 12-plus. For stockists ring 01604 884441.

3 **REVOLUTION 1.5** (£159.95)

Good for learning to fly quad-line. Available from the Kite Store, 48 Neal Street, London WC2 (0171-836 1666) and by mail order (p&h from £5).

4 **AIRCRAFT GYRO** (£19.99)

Small sport stunt kite. From age eight. For stockists ring 01604 864441.

5 **FLEXIFOIL SUPER 10** (£170)

For serious power kite fliers only; not suitable for children under 14. For stockists ring 01353 723131.

6 **POWERHOUSE BLADE** (£89.95)

Delta-wing sport stunt kite. For intermediates upwards, from age 14-15. For stockists ring 01752 670156.

THE GRIFFIN (not shown, £66)

Full-size sport stunt kite. From age 10. For stockists ring 0117-923 2084.

THE JAM SESSION (not shown, £119)

Two-line trick kite. For intermediates upwards, from age 14-15. For stockists ring 01752 670156.

lines, derived from fishing twine).

Today, even the most basic diamond-shaped kite, such as the best-selling Worlds Apart Blazer, comes with a ripstop nylon sail. It's a popular knockabout model for beginners, even if it looks old-fashioned compared with the Aircraft Gyro. The latter is a small version of the sport kites - those hang-glider lookalikes (also called delta-wing or swept-wing) that swooped on

to the scene in the early 1990s. At this kind of price you can get good quality for your money; the frame is of lightweight carbon fibre (today's preferred material, as opposed to the Blazer's fibreglass) and it's fast.

The Worlds Apart Vortex is a slightly larger version with rugged fixtures and attractive panelling. It has a broad wind range which means durability, high performance and crisp handling. It's also relatively forgiving and would suit lesser-skilled intermediates.

The Griffin by Martin Lester is a full-size, swept-wing sport stunt kite aimed at beginners and intermediates. It has a 5-20 mph wind range and is good for learning precision flying and some tricks. "The materials haven't moved on much in the last couple of years. You're still looking at ripstop nylon on carbon fibre," says Andy King, co-owner of the Kite Store. "The real development lies in the public's more sophisticated tastes. They want power and speed, finesse and tricks."

In the same vein as power kites come the bigger sport kites, such as the Powerhouse Blade, which are alarmingly powerful. "A real head-banger's kite for those who want power, speed, exhilaration and life in the fast lane," Mr King says. Like a windsurfer, it has a highly engineered, battened sail shape, which makes maximum use of the wind and enables very fast turns. The Jam Session by HQ Invento is

flavour of the moment for finesse flying, another trend in the market. "This involves stalling the kite and then doing tricks, such as axels (flipping the whole kite around). Just as people see the tennis stars at Wimbledon and want to copy their techniques, so kite-flying enthusiasts want to learn all the flips, cascades, under axels and over axels they've seen demonstrated at kite festivals."

The Flexifoil Super Ten is an adults-only power kite. Mr King irreverently refers to it as "the flying duvet", but sells about 200 a year of them at £170 each. He says: "It doesn't matter that these large power kites have been around since the early 1980s, it's what people are doing with them that has made them so fashionable today."

Finally, for the ultimate in control (or the ultimate in confusion for two-line fliers who will have to un-learn two-line techniques) there are the four-line kites which can fly both backwards and forwards, stop dead or do propeller spins. The four-line Revolution 1.5 imported from Santiago, California, does not come cheap, but is excellent to learn on: not too fast, nor too slow, and it has the broadest wind range around.

SOPHIE CHAMIER

LIVE THE HIGH LIFE

■ Kite Society of Great Britain, PO Box 2274, Great Horkesey, Colchester, Essex CO6 4AY. Annual membership - £9, families £10. OAPs £7 - includes four copies of *The Kiteflier* magazine. The handbook lists kite specialist shops indicating those offering discounts of 5-10 per cent to members.

■ Chris Matheson, 172 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0JL (0171-923 0755). Private tuition costs £20 per hour group tuition for fifteen people, £10 per person for a 2½-hour session. Mr Matheson is a kite designer who competed for three years at national level. His classes are for those with some knowledge of kite flying.

■ Richard Marsh of Trade-wind Kites in Reading (01734 568848) hosts the 1996 Phoenix Master Class series with Andrew Lomas. Each one-hour session costs £12.50 per flier, with a maximum of three pupils per instructor. All levels of flier are catered for.

■ Dodd Gross teaching videos are international best-sellers. *Flight School 2* teaches trick flying and *Flight School 3* advanced trick-flying (both £11.99). Widely available in kite shops. (Call 01225 466661 for local stockists.)

■ Natural Heights (0181-682 8990) runs kite weeks in the conservation area of Portugal's Algarve from August 29, September 5, 12, 19,

26 and October 3. The cost is a supplement of £50 per adult or £40 for under-16s, added to the basic self-catering holiday price of between £300-£350 per person (including flights, car hire, accommodation and insurance). The week includes three half-day guided kite sessions in groups of up to ten. Use of equipment is free during lessons. Individual two-hour lessons in specialist areas, such as power kiting, costs £10.

■ Major kite festivals: August 24-26, Portsmouth (contact Kite Society above); August 31-September 1, Canterbury (contact A. Sage, 01227 462786); September 7-8, Bristol (contact Avril Baker, 0117 9772002).

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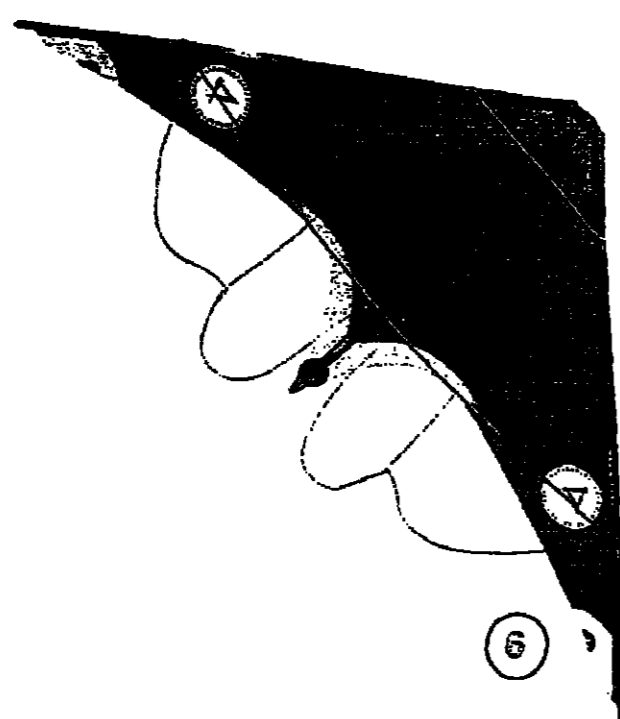
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PROPERTY.

From holiday to second home

The weekend cottage can often become a useful source of income

Even on holiday, the British are attracted to "For Sale" signs. Estate agents' windows in pretty market towns or sunny seaside resorts throughout Britain possess the same appeal. For the idea of owning a holiday cottage is at its most appealing when families discover the near-perfect retreat from home and work. Although far less daunting than moving house, buying a holiday home involves doing your homework. Vital considerations include choosing the right location at the right distance from home, finding the best way to finance the purchase, assessing whether the property can raise an income through letting and deciding whether you are going to become bored with holidays in the same place. Ian and Pat Coupar, a chemical engineer and a teacher respectively, debated all these issues when they spotted a cottage for sale in Norfolk during a holiday. They searched libraries and bookshops for advice and guidance on the pros and cons and, although there were books on buying abroad, there was nothing on a second UK home. Mr Coupar says. They went ahead anyway, and have now written their own guide to the process. Chapter headings - on why buy, location, style and type, searching and financing, possible income, budget and management, and risks - cover the essential areas. "One thing we hadn't really considered was how we were going to furnish the place," says Mr Coupar. The father of three teenage sons. "But in the end we were lucky because the house was already a holiday cottage and its owner asked if we were interested in buying the contents." So for an extra £800, their three-bedroom cottage came fully furnished with everything from books and records to games and even an artificial Christmas tree. That was two years ago and since



Pat and Ian Coupar outside their holiday cottage in Norfolk: "Always do your homework and take professional advice"

then the Coupars, who live two hours away in Bromley, Kent, and their friends and relatives have enjoyed dozens of weekends and longer holidays in the cottage. Most holiday-home owners believe that a two-hour drive makes a weekend visit easy and a day-trip for inspection feasible. A much longer journey makes regular journeys more difficult and more expensive. "Provided you do your homework and take professional advice, most of the risks can be limited or eradicated. We are glad we decided to follow our initial instincts and take the plunge," Mr Coupar says. Buying a holiday home is often completed with the help of a second mortgage, more freely available now than some years ago. Around 50 building societies and other lenders offer mortgages for second homes, but many charge a higher interest rate if the property is let for commercial gain. Halifax Mortgage Services, a subsidiary of the Halifax building society, offers a Second Asset Mortgage at the same base rate as other home loans. Management consultant

Andy Macey found the mortgage ideal to finance his purchase of a three-bedroom period cottage in Westerham, Kent, half an hour from his home. He and his wife spend almost every weekend there. "We bought a smaller place in the same village a year before but, when this property came on the market, we decided to buy it," he says. "The building society was very helpful." Although Mr Macey does not let out his second home, many owners use theirs to generate income and choose to place it with a holiday marketing organisation. English

Country Cottages (ECC) already promotes 2,800 properties in the UK - from a simple cottage in Devon without electricity to an eight-bedroom manor house with indoor swimming pool. Tim Fullam, ECC's marketing director, says Dorset, Sussex, Hampshire, Wiltshire and south Cornwall are the most popular in the summer; in the winter it is the Cotswolds. ECC, which produces an owners' guide setting out the required standard of accommodation, charges commission of 21.5 per cent of the gross rentals achieved, plus VAT. Owning and letting a holiday property can be a tax-efficient investment, if the arrangements conform to the qualifying rules. The property must be in the UK, must be furnished, and the lettings must be on a commercial basis, for a specified minimum period each year. It must be available to the public for letting for 140 days in a year, and it must achieve a minimum let of 70 days. If those conditions are met, any profits are regarded as earned income and interest on money bor-

rowed to buy the property can be set against income for tax purposes.

Chartered accountants Binder Hamlyn publish a *Live and Let* guide to taxation of both residential and holiday letting, but make it clear that it is a general guide which cannot take the place of specific professional advice.

One issue that cannot be solved by professionals is whether the novelty factor of the house and surrounding area will wear off. It is one thing to spend two weeks in an idyllic spot, but another for it to be a second home.

For Harold Smith, a semi-retired builders' merchant, the opposite is true. Four years ago he bought a derelict property on Ireland's Cork coast, which has become a retreat for him and his wife.

"I had spent a great deal of time in Ireland, on holiday and on business, before I saw this place," says Mr Smith, who lives in Lancashire. "It was affordable and in an unbeatable position." But it took almost two years before the rebuilt three-bedroom property was habitable.

"Having work done at a distance can be a problem," he says. The couple now either fly to Cork for a short stay or use the Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire ferry to take the car for a longer holiday. "It does mean we rarely go anywhere else but we love it there. Ireland is now an extension of our lives."

"Period stone-built farmhouses are the most popular, usually with a minimum of an acre of land," estate agent Charles McCarthy, based in County Cork, says. "A good quality house will cost between £70,000 and £150,000 and the nearer the coast it is, the more expensive it will be."

LYNNE GREENWOOD

- A Guide to Buying a Holiday Cottage in England by Pat and Ian Coupar, from Holiday Cottages, PO Box 42, Hove, Brighton, Kent BR2 7RU (£5 + 75p p&p).
• Live and Let taxation guide from Binder Hamlyn, 20 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BH (0171-466 6504).
• English Country Cottages, Grove Farm Barns, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9NB (01328 864293).
• In The Site, national property newspaper specialising in country homes, at Slaggyford, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 7NW (01434 381409).

Next week: homes on the coast

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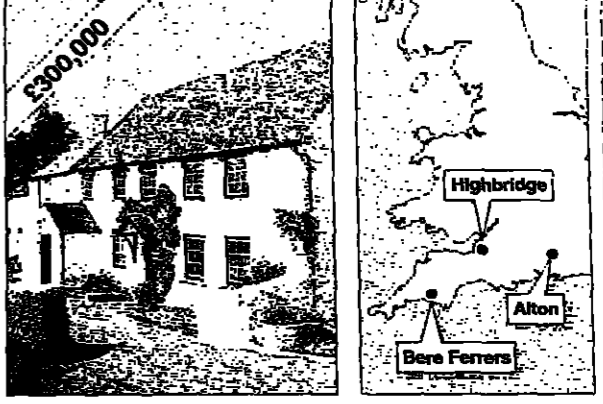
ABOUT £325,000



HAMPSHIRE Piestor House, High Street, Selborne, Alton. Grade II listed 18th-century village house in a walled garden. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom and scullery. Outbuildings and garaging. About £345,000 (Hamptons, 01420 86688).



DEVON Hollowed Farm, Bove Ferrers. A 18th-century farmhouse in 30 acres of gardens and farmland, with 300 metres of water frontage. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), two reception rooms, kitchen and utility. Self-contained two-bedroom cottage and two detached timber bungalows. About £300,000 (Fulfords, 01382 412007).



SOMERSET Elm Tree Farm, Mark, Highbridge. A 19th-century house in 19 acres, with 12 loose boxes, feed room, back room, horsebox garage, Dutch barn, malled outdoor school and five paddocks. Five bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, sitting room, dining room, two kitchens. Self-contained one-bedroom annexe. About £300,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01982 215631).

CHERYL TAYLOR

STRATFORD ROAD Kensington W8. In a pretty street, a spacious south facing Victorian house on four floors requiring refurbishment. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 5 reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, utility area, cloakroom, attractive garden. Freehold £645,000. KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705

JOHN D WOOD & CO LONDON AND COUNTRY ESTATE AGENTS ESTABLISHED 1872. BARNES, SW13 Freehold £825,000. An imposing Georgian house with an adjoining coach house, a delightful, established, west facing garden and carriage drive (shared). Main house: 6 beds, 2 baths, 3 recep, kit/utility, 34m (113ft) garden, garage, driveway. Coach house: 3 beds, bath, shower rm, 2 recep, kitchen. FULHAM: 0171-731 4223

CLAPHAM COMMON NORTHSIDE, SW4. With lovely views over the Common, an elegant listed house, beautifully modernised, near an interesting selection of shops and restaurants plus underground station. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 receptions, kitchen. Flat with 2 rooms, kitchen, shower rm. Large garden and garage. Freehold. BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174

BERKSHIRE - Near Kintbury Price Guide: £250,000. With an immaculate garden, a charming cottage in a quiet lane amidst rolling farmland about 2 miles from this popular village & 8 miles from Newbury. 3 beds, 2 baths, 2 recep, kit, barn. NEWBURY: 01635 523225

LONDON OFFICES: BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174, BELGRAVIA: 0171-730 9854, CHELSEA: 0171-352 1484, FULHAM: 0171-731 4223, KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705, MAYFAIR: 0171-408 0055, ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171-722 5556, WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033, WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172. COUNTRY OFFICES: HEAD OFFICE: 0171-493 4106, CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244, EAST CRINSTEAD: 01342 326326, FARNHAM: 01252 737115, LYMINGTON: 01590 677233, NEWBURY: 01635 523225, OXFORD: 01865 311522, WINCHESTER: 01962 863131, HONG KONG: 00 852 2 872 5146. 26 CURZON STREET, LONDON W1Y 8LD. 0171-493 4106 FAX: 0171-629 6071. LETTINGS AND MANAGEMENT: To let your house or flat: Central London 0171-491 4311, North London 0171-722 3336, Wimbledon & Surrey 0181-946 9447, South of the M4 01256 398004, North of the M4 01865 311522.

HAMPSHIRE - Milford on Sea Price Guide: £295,000. A handsome Grade II listed 18th century village house in need of modernisation. 5 beds, 2 baths, 3 recep, study, kit, fine recep hall, 2 attic rms, dble garage, workshop, games rm, gdn. LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

OXFORDSHIRE Blethingdon. A detached stone cottage situated in this popular North Oxfordshire village. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, large sitting room with dining area, kitchen, cloakroom, garage and garden. Price Guide: £135,000. OXFORD: 01865 311522

OXFORD - Harcourt Hill For sale or to let. With uninterrupted views over the Oxford Spas and Chilterns, a well-appointed house with paddocks. 5 beds, 2 dressing rms, 4 baths, shower rm, 4 recep, kit, b/fast rm, domestic offices, gymnasium/office, S/c 1 bed annexe, dble garage, gardens, grounds. About 4.45 ha (11 acres). OXFORD: 01865 311522

HAMPSHIRE Bartley, Near Lyndhurst. A refurbished period farmhouse with outbuildings, garden and paddocks of about 0.8 ha (2 acres). 3 beds, bath, recep hall/family rm, 2 recep, b/fast rm, kit, double garage, stabling, manège. Potential to extend subject to renewing previous consent. LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

BOOKS

Samuel Beckett with a dash of Buster Keaton

LIKE Somerset Maugham's his stories are not, but James Kelman's 1987 collection, *Greyhound for Breakfast*, newly reissued by Minerva (£6.99, ISBN 0 7493 8616 9), is quite the most substantial in this batch of recent titles. For my money, the book continues to be, no doubt unintentionally, Kelman's best yet in the stakes for Parnassus. It is the observation, the humour and wit, the rhythms and humanity, the undocumentary imagination and linguistic daring — what? no safety net? — which make these 47 prose poems about everyday working-class life so enthralling. If you must have a

comparison, here is Samuel Beckett faced with Buster Keaton. I cannot muster as much enthusiasm for Kelman's friend and protégée, Agnes Owens, whose earlier book of stories, *Lean Tales*, was co-authored with him and Alasdair Gray. She shares the same vision as Gray and Kelman but, in her new collection, *People Like That* (Bloomsbury, £13.99, ISBN 0 7475 2522 6), her prose lacks poetry and an ability to use language to intensify experience. There is a fear of soaring. Which is a shame as Owens's reports on the elderly, the homeless and the drug-addicted are most compassionate.

Giles Gordon reviews short stories, from witty working-class observations to a *Woman's Hour* anniversary anthology

Liz Heron's first collection, *A Red River* (Virago, £6.99, ISBN 1 85381 869 0), at its best recalls Rose Tremain's marvellous "historical" stories although the writing is more pared down, more documentary. The title story, about an uprising against a British mining company in Spain near the end of the 19th century, cries out to be treated at novel length as the exploration of character here is rudimentary. The story at first seems to be about the

marriage between an Edinburgh man working for the company and his Spanish bride, but Heron is more interested in exploring social wrongs, which is her prerogative, than private lives. *Hot Chicken Wings* by Jyl Lynn Felman (Virago, £6.99, ISBN 1 86049 010 7) is winsomely embarrassing, and not only for the numerous, gushing acknowledgements and the appalling introduction. "The forbidden or what makes

me a Jewish lesbian writer". If she is happy being Jewish and lesbian, then I am happy for her, but this book, published in America in 1992, seems more a crusade (perhaps to convince herself?) than a work of art. The publisher Serpent's Tail frequently comes up with intelligent group anthologies of short stories, back rubs (£8.99, ISBN 1 85242 394 3) is an intriguing concept, a collection of new stories

by women celebrating change in women's lives. The subjects embraced including orgasm, death, puberty and separation. The authors include A. L. Kennedy, Janette Turner Hospital, Susan Hill and Erica Wagner. Another "theme" collection is Virago's *Short Circuits* (£6.99, ISBN 1 85381 868 2), edited by Melanie Silgado, in which 12 new writers explore "uncomfortable territories". The cumbrously entitled *Woman's Hour 50th Anniversary Short Story Collection*, published jointly by Penguin and BBC Books (£6.99, ISBN 0 14 025797 7), is

edited and introduced by Di Speirs, the programme's serials producer. Each of the 17 stories here — by the likes of Elizabeth Taylor, Sylvia Townsend Warner, Margaret Atwood, E. Annie Proulx and Jeanette Winterson — is a gem. Finally, Clare Francis and Ondine Upton have put together *A Feast of Stories* (Pan, £5.99, ISBN 0 330 34492 7). The contributors include Douglas Adams, Jeffrey Archer, Iain Banks, Catherine Cookson, Jilly Cooper and Dick Francis — published in aid of the charity Action for ME. It is a thumping good read, if you like that sort of thing.

Peter Millar on Hammond Innes

Phew! what a scorcher

AT THE AGE of 83, the most amazing thing about Hammond Innes is that he is still turning them out. *Delta Connection* is his thirtieth work of fiction — there have also been two travel books and a history of the Conquistadors — and will doubtless sell as well as any of the others. The hardback packaging, with a dramatic dust-cover illustration of a locomotive

DELTA CONNECTION By Hammond Innes Macmillan £15.99 ISBN 0 333 63290 7

occurs to him that in the circumstances of the time — when Securitate men overnight became fair game for anyone with a grudge and a gun — he would have done just as well to stay put. Instead of which, however, he is off on the lam accompanied only by a wild woman with a hair lip and a Kalashnikov, who soon turns out to be the sister-by-adoption of an erotic dancer with whom Cartwright once had a one-night fling. But for the rest of their relationship it is gentlemen's rules and no sex, please, we're British. Indeed British in a way they don't make 'em any more, even in Wilbur Smith novels. There is lots more of this at a pace so cracking there is little time for reflection, least of all on the part of our hero trekking up the northwest frontier, into the Parnis and Tajikistan, being shot at into the bargain, all at the behest of some vaguely defined mining resources exploration company. So just what is it in the end that brings together the woman with the hair lip, a quixotic French cameraman — *zut alors!* — and a group of troglodyte descendants of lost Vikings with a liking for high technology? Who knows? And if you have got that far, who cares? You're probably out of breath anyway. Never fear, the octogenarian Hammond's payoff suggests a sequel. Phew! I wonder what he takes.



Innes: cliff-hanger

belching black smoke hurtling between sheer cliff walls through a snowy mountain pass, just about sums it all up. This is rip-snorting adventure yarn stuff in the best Boys' Own tradition. True, Innes has brought the action bang up to date — well, relatively — setting the beginning of his tale in the mayhem of Romania when the Ceausescu's nasty little empire was crumbling bloody around them. Our hero, Paul Cartwright, gets caught up in the murder of a Securitate man, the excuse to send him on a madcap escape via the Danube delta. Clearly it never



Marlene Dietrich photographed by Clarence Sinclair Bull with her cabochon emerald and diamond bracelets. from *Hollywood Jewels* by Penny Proddow, Debra Healy and Marion Fasel (Abradale Press, £17.95, ISBN 0 8109 8145 9)

The meaning of life

THREE AIDS widowers dine together every Saturday night in southern California. Apart from their bereavement they have nothing in common. Sonny Cevethas, beautiful and dispossessed, works as a waiter, sculpts his body in the gym and dreams of reincarnation. Dell Espinoza, a gardener and man of property, burns with a fury that is focused on a loathsome televangelist who publicly thanks God for AIDS as a way of ridding the earth of perverts. The leader of the three, older than the others and more direct in his unhappiness, is Steven Shaw. The novel opens a year and six days after Steven's lover, Victor, died. By then Sonny is looking for a new partner; Dell is threatening to poison

AFTERLIFE By Paul Monette Abacus £6.99 ISBN 0 349 10772 6

the reservoirs with Aids-infected blood; Steven, almost beyond tears, is poised for a return to work and perhaps to ordinary life. All of them are HIV-positive. Into Steven's life comes Mark Inman, an important television executive who was once Victor's lover. Mark has sex with lots of men and fears emotional attachment even more than the plague. Steven falls in love with him. *Afterlife* is about their struggle to find some meaning in a world where they and all their gay friends are dying or dead. What is the point of working



Monette: frank emotions

or trying to love — or even watering the garden — when you have only one or two to live? Gradually each of the three widowers finds a way — a quite different way — of

dealing with the hopelessness. Towards the end of the novel, when Steven and Mark are in the cemetery after yet another funeral, Mark, thinking about a possible Aids-less future, asks: "Will anyone understand what it was like?" If they read this often funny and extraordinarily moving novel, they might. It is frank about aspects of the gay male world that other people find so hard to understand: the cruising, the violence and the loveless coupling. But there is so much love in Steven and some of the other characters, and so much compassion, that in the end the reader is left only with an aching sadness.

KATE HATFIELD

So good it's criminal

I CANNOT understand why James Lee Burke has not attracted the British readership his excellence deserves. He is as good as Elmore Leonard and Charles Willeford at their best, which is the highest praise I can think of. His cop, Dave Robicheaux, Vietnam veteran, former alcoholic, a dignified, tormented outsider with a scarred past and anguish in his dreams, is the deepest, most fully developed character in American crime fiction. The dialogue crackles with vitality and realism. The plots are complex yet controlled; tension builds not with shock-bang crudity but in little subtle steps, hardly noticeable until a pulverising, shocking, act takes place. Above all, perhaps, Burke's effectiveness comes from his mastery of the social milieu in which Robicheaux operates. He works in New Orleans but his home and his soul are in the nearby Cajun swamplands, a dark and brooding part of the American South where race, poverty and revenge still dominate the passions of its inhabitants. In *Cadillac Jukebox*, Aaron Crown, a poor-white former Klansman convicted, after more than 25 years, of killing a black civil rights leader in

CADILLAC JUKEBOX By James Lee Burke Orion £15.99 ISBN 0 7528 0452 9

the 1960s, suddenly starts proclaiming the innocence he never claimed at his trial. His attempts to convince Robicheaux are linked somehow with the campaign for State governor of local sleazebag Buford LaRose, whose provocatively sexy wife Karyn was once an unforgettable bed-mate of Robicheaux's. The cop's reluctant involvement brings him into edgy contact with a vividly portrayed array of mobsters, drug-traders, prostitutes, drunks and general low-lifers. Burke's descriptions have that hint of surreality — in the landscape, in the characters, in Robicheaux's thoughts — which enhance their impact from the merely powerful to the exceptional. Burke's portrait of a stubborn, flawed but honest man trying to retain his dignity and his family when all around him are steeped in pessimism, corruption or plain inability to cope ranks with the best of American writing, never mind just American crime writing.

MARCEL BERLINS

TEENAGE FICTION

Lessons in the playground

TEMPTING fans from the unstopably popular Point Horror series this summer are a welcome range of well-written thrillers. Halfway between farce and drama, *Egghead* by Steve May (Mammoth, £3.99, ISBN 0 749 7282 2) combines an atmosphere of creeping horror with the dynamics of the playground. Trying to impress the school gang, Billy drops an egg on the head of a holiday-maker. Not once, but twice. Maddened, Egghead wants revenge. As Billy's fears increase, tension rises and the gang of 13 and 14-year-olds pick on him in a way that is worse than punching: "Every time they see you, they nudge each other and pretend they're going to laugh, but they're holding it in with their hands over their faces, and then, as soon as you move away,

they're howling with laughter behind your back." May — familiar to me as a challenging radio dramatist — has written a book of depth and understanding which is also a cracking read. By coincidence, *World-Fater* by Robert Swindells (Corgi, £3.50, ISBN 0 448 6349 X) is also concerned with eggs and, obliquely, with bullying. In this case, the egg comes in the form of a mysterious new planet which threatens the universe, baffles the scientists but is coolly dealt with by a tip-off from Orville, a diffident and unpopular boy. This is an ambitious thriller, involving foreign powers, kidnapping, space probes and the cultivation of eggs. It is surprising, considering that Orville continues to be bullied at school.

MAUREN OWEN

Four dozen free-range mysteries

NOT MANY of the people who love Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* know that she also wrote the short story on which Hitchcock's terrifying film *The Birds* was based. Carlton has now bought up the rights to 48 of her stories, and will be making TV films of them. Many of the stories are thrillers, and her son, Kits Browning, says "She always longed to be remembered as a

BOOK NEWS

writer of mystery and sometimes terror, rather than as a romantic novelist." Now she may be lucky. *The TLS* is famous for its unusual correspondence, and the latest controversy is about when soldiers first marched in step. Some authors believe

that it was in about 1600, but John Keegan maintains in a letter that it was not until about 1750. Earlier attempts were abandoned because, says Keegan, marching in step "had to wait for engineered roads and purpose-built parade grounds". No more shuffling after that.

SHORTLY TO appear: Jeffrey Robinson's new novel, *The Hotel* (Simon & Schuster), based on five months he spent behind the scenes in a luxury hotel in England. Kings arrive with their own beds, guests want to rent elephants, the hotel sells "sleep and sex and the illusion of a lost time". It's a long way from the staid goings-on in Arnold Bennett's *The Grand Babylon Hotel*.

Wine, women and surgery

THE DONOR By Christiana Barnard Michael Joseph, £15.99 ISBN 0 7181 4152 0

THERE is something awfully familiar about Dr Rodney Barnes, the main character in Christiana Barnard's novel. For a start, he is an internationally famous South African heart-transplant surgeon — and there are not too many of those that spring to mind. He is also attractive and charismatic, with a penchant for fine wines and fast women. It is unwise to speculate how far such details are intended to be autobiographical. The novel opens with our hero getting to grips with the everyday problems of heart-transplant surgery. When we first encounter Dr Barnes, he is experimenting with transplanting the hearts of recently executed criminals into his patients.



Barnard: medical fiction

THE ACCOMPLICE By Elizabeth Ironside Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99 ISBN 0 340 64036 7

ZITA DAUNTSEY enjoys a pleasantly uneventful existence working as a solicitor in a small town in the Home Counties. Then the skeleton of a child is unearthed in the garden of a house owned by one of her clients — and suddenly the certainties of Zita's life are undermined. As she tries to identify the corpse, and thus exonerate her elderly client, Jean Lofus, from suspicion of murder, she uncovers a whole range of

secrets. For Jean, it transpires, was formerly Yevgenia Choroukaya — forced to leave Russia in the 1950s to escape the Stalinist purges. When Zenia, a young Russian girl, arrives at Jean's house, claiming to be a distant relative, Jean sees her chance of making amends. But Xenia has secrets of her own...

WHAT SHE WANTED By Nicky Singer Orion, £9.99 ISBN 0 7 280 491 X

SUZANNAH McCALL is a successful barrister in her late thirties, whose private life, until the point the novel opens, has been restricted to a series of casual affairs and one more serious involvement with a married man. Then she meets Jem, an impoverished writer 12 years her junior, and finds out what it is like to be the object of a romantic fixation. The moral of Nicky Singer's entertaining fable seems to be that the more of a "New Woman" you are, the less you are likely to be attracted to a "New Man". Whatever the truth of this, the novel is fluent, and offers some nicely ironic observations.

CHRISTINA KONING

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK			PAPERBACK		
		Last week's			
1	APPASSIONATA Jilly Cooper (Bantam)	£16.99	3	16	
2	THE RUNAWAY JURY John Grisham (Century)	£12.99	1	12	
3	POPCORN Ben Elton (Simon & Schuster)	£14.99	6	2	
4	THE FOURTH ESTATE Jeffrey Archer (HarperCollins)	£16.99	2	0	
5	WHEEL OF TIME BOOK 7: CROWN OF SWORDS Robert Jordan (Orbit)	£17.99	5	5	
6	STAND BY, STAND BY Chris Ryan (Century)	£15.99	0	1	
7	MICHELIN RED GUIDE: FRANCE 1996 Michelin	£4.50	0	1	
8	EXCESSION Iain M. Banks (Orbit)	£15.99	0	7	
9	KEEPER OF GENESIS Robert Bauval & Graham Hancock (Heinemann)	£16.99	10	7	
10	FEET OF CLAY Terry Pratchett (Gollancz)	£15.99	9	10	
PAPERBACK					
1	NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND Bill Bryson (Black Swan)	£6.99	0	1	
2	GREEN MILE 5: NIGHT JOURNEY Stephen King (Penguin)	£1.99	1	2	
3	HIGH FIDELITY Nick Hornby (Indigo)	£5.99	3	18	
4	THE GHOST ROAD Pat Barker (Penguin)	£6.99	4	5	
5	SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix)	£6.00	5	23	
6	FROM POTTER'S FIELD Patricia Cornwell (Warner)	£5.99	2	7	
7	THE LOST WORLD Michael Crichton (Arrow)	£5.99	7	6	
8	MEMNOCH THE DEVIL Anne Rice (Arrow)	£5.99	0	1	
9	THE HORSE WHISPERER Nicholas Evans (Corgi)	£5.99	6	10	
10	ECSTASY Irvine Welsh (Jonathan Cape)	£5.99	13	11	
11	BELGARATH THE SORCERER David Eddings (HarperCollins)	£6.99	9	3	
12	REGENERATION Pat Barker (Penguin)	£5.99	14	3	
13	THE MOOR'S LAST SIGH Salman Rushdie (Vintage)	£6.99	11	6	
14	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM Kate Atkinson (Black Swan)	£6.99	15	22	
15	OF LOVE AND OTHER DEMONS Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Penguin)	£5.99	16	0	
16	INDEPENDENCE DAY Richard Ford (Harvill)	£6.99	0	3	
17	JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH Roald Dahl (Puffin)	£3.99	0	1	
18	THE PILLARS OF HERCULES Paul Theroux (Penguin)	£6.99	0	4	
19	INDEPENDENCE DAY Dean Devlin (Bantam)	£4.99	0	1	
20	COMPLETE THEORY TEST FOR CARS AND MOTORCYCLES John Page (HMSSO)	£9.99	10	5	

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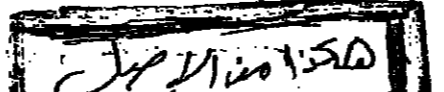
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BOOKS

Elizabeth Buchan on Tim Waterstone's moving but disappointing new novel about four men

On the trail of Nazi gold

AT THE moments when it pauses for breath, this novel is very good: honest, serious and ambitious.

In England, a quartet of Holocaust survivors are pursuing very different lives. Amos Bronowski, an academic, marries the shy and awkward Miranda, an English teacher at a posh London girls' school, and is compiling a report on the death camps, which he plans to publish. Courtesy of his wife, Lewis Cohen has infiltrated himself into the powerful Jewish establishment and is, supposedly, at the pinnacle of a successful law career. Yet, there are

■ A PASSAGE OF LIVES
By Tim Waterstone
Headline Review, £16.99
ISBN 0 7472 1881 2

questions about his probity. A widower, Garth Edel focuses his energies on his bookshop and on his work as a secret agent for the World Jewish Council. Finally, the brilliant and irretrievably damaged Mariss Steiner is living in a hotel where he is free to construct his fantasies, some of which are dangerous.

A terrible and common past provides a link, and the key, to the psychology of the men who seek out or contrive situations which subtly reinforce a profound pessimism and guilt. They are also bound by a common interest in the fate of the millions stolen from the Jews by the Nazis, which are lying in secret Swiss bank accounts. Who is going to lay their hands on this wealth and for what purpose?

Tim Waterstone unravels a complex story in which the scrupulous and sanctified are as questionable as the greedy and unscrupulous. He writes densely and thoughtfully and, sometimes, movingly — his portrait

of a mother agonising over her dying child is unbearable — and in his construction of Miranda he demonstrates an admirable grasp of the female soul. What mars his achievements is the choppy structure — 76 chapters in 312 pages — with the result that the plot and the narrative are thrown from pillar to post. All novels have an internal rhythm to which the reader unconsciously responds, and the best have an intrinsic harmony with the development of character, theme and language. In this respect, *A Passage of Lives* is disappointing.



Waterstone: honest

NEW IN PAPERBACK



Alex Benzie: an ambitious and complex first novel

■ THE YEARS' MIDNIGHT
By Alex Benzie
Penguin, £7.99
ISBN 0 14 125130 8

BY ANY reckoning, this great leviathan of a novel is an impressive achievement: for a first novel it is a remarkable one. Alex Benzie reveals his mastery as a storyteller and his narration of the individual stories of the inhabitants of a Scottish village resonates against the dilemmas of the human condition.

Benzie begins his novel in the Scottish village of Aberlevin in the late 18th century, where womanising, plain-speaking Macpherson is hanged for a crime he did not commit. The angry villagers climb up the village clocktower and smash the clock. One hundred years

later a shy young watch-mender known as "Watchie" Leckie is summoned to the village to repair the clock and rewind the cogs of time.

As Watchie labours at fine-tuning the clock, the more nebulous forces of hypocrisy, bigotry and fear are at work in Aberlevin. They arrive in the mysteriously charismatic shape of the liar Jamie Watts; Jamie, with his conviction that he is pre-elected for salvation in the afterlife, is a creation from the dark tradition of James Hogg's *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* with its suggestion of supernatural forces at work behind human self-delusion.

Don't be put off by the time-delying 600 page length of *The Year's Midnight*: it is a magnificent novel.



■ BLACK SEA
The Birthplace of Civilization and Barbarism
By Neal Ascherson
Vintage, £7.99
ISBN 0 09 959371 3

THIS dense, frequently fascinating history of the Black Sea, where migrating peoples have crossed paths for millennia, flows from the pen of the former *Observer* foreign correspondent (now columnist for *The Independent on Sunday*). Thinking about barbarism, civilisation and nationalism, he compares a mongrel-Tatar prince who donned Greek robes to 18th-century half-cosmopolitan Scots chieftains. Although it is sometimes rambling, the book mingles erudite accounts of the ancient world with the author's first-hand experience of the 1990s and the USSR in upheaval.

■ WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, MUMMY?
By Mavis Nicholson
Pimlico, £10
ISBN 0 71 267464 0

A RESISTANCE heroine, the future novelist Mary Wesley, a widow, a munitions worker, a barrage balloon operator, landgirls and a popular singer are among the gallery of women who reveal to Nicholson the enormous impact the Second World War had on their once ordinary lives. Each woman tells a tale of bravery and fear in a war which they had to help win. Despite the trials of the Blitz, rationing, and sad partings, Nicholson's women feel that the war allowed them opportunities and freedoms they had been denied.



■ THE NORMAL MAN
By Susie Boyt
Phoenix, £5.99
ISBN 1 85799 421 3

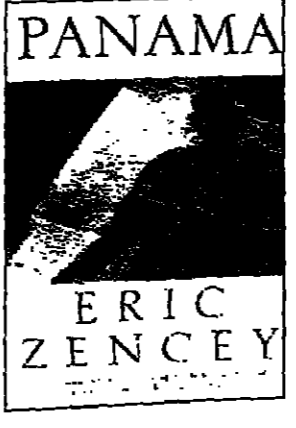
JANEY ARCH wants a normal man, someone she can bake steak and kidney pies for. After months of crash dieting and a roller coaster of disastrous relationships, an accident at a house-warming party brings down the whole house of cards and she relieves her obsessions with men, her childhood, jam, and the death of her father Norman. But Janey also meets a normal man at the party, a man who reads *Anna Karenina* to her in hospital. A novel of pain but also of self-mocking humour and reconciliation, and of finding someone who likes jam as much as she does.

■ AMERICAN STUDIES
By Mark Merlis
Fourth Estate, £6.99
ISBN 1 857 02 413 3

SIXTY-SOMETHING-year-old Reeve, bashed up by a hustler and recovering in hospital, meditates on what seems the parallel ruin of his college mentor Tom Slater, driven to suicide in the McCarthy era 40 years before. With its wry, compassionate humour the novel gets together a complex of themes: the brutalising conformity that cements American society; the futility in a culture of alienation of Slater's ideals of love; and not least the emergence and (non-) acceptance of the homosexual identity. An exceptional first novel.

■ LET'S DANCE
By Frances Hegarty
Penguin, £5.99
ISBN 1 14 025335 1

AS Frances Hegarty, Frances Field frees herself from the crime-mystery format to explore dark sides of human nature that are not necessarily criminal. Here, she gives an uncomfortable portrait of a mixed-up family coping with Alzheimer's disease. As Serena Burley veers between obscene anger and irresponsible gaiety, her daughter Isabel has to find a way to care for her. A gang of nasty burglars provides external menace but the real subject is the destructive element within.



■ PANAMA
By Eric Zency
Sceptre, £5.99
ISBN 0 340 65727 7

THIS IS a fine first novel, and better than that, a remarkable one. Ask most history professors to write a thriller set within their favourite time and place and you will get an undisciplined textbook, whereas Eric Zency's mystery set within 1890s Paris is both gripping and educational. Unsurprisingly, the reluctant hero is an American historian too, Henry Adams, who is drawn into a seedy Paris, reminiscent of Poe, in which the Panama Canal scandal is being hatched. Adams's exploits will appeal to both lovers of mystery and academics: a distinction revealed to be very slight indeed.

Contributors: Lucy Lethbridge, Kate Bassett, Adam Schwartzman, Alison Burns, Amanda Loose, Guy Walters



Home Life and Holidays, from *The Cotswolds Life and Traditions* by June Lewis, which explores facets of life in the Cotswold Hills seen through the eyes of local people (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99, ISBN 0 297 83293 X)

Guys behaving badly

Anthony Holden puts money on a guaranteed success story

■ CONFESSIONS OF AN IVY LEAGUE BOOKIE
By Peter Alson
Fourth Estate, £7.99
ISBN 1 85702 497 4

FAST going nowhere as a writer, little further in a long-distance romance, and broke, thirtysomething Harvard graduate Peter Alson reluctantly trades in his scruples for an illegal job as a Manhattan bookmaker. One Ivy League buddy-turned-bookie already drives a Saab convertible, complete with stylish broad in the passenger seat. So the risks look well worth a few sleepless nights wondering what a nice boy like him is doing in a job like this.

"Look who we got here," says Bob, the office wag, on Alson's arrival. "We got one guy, Spanky, who's a fat, smelly slob with a bad attitude. We got another, Michael, who's deeply depressed and doesn't know it. We got Monkey, a gangster who kills people. Bernie, a 50-year-old man who can't walk ten feet without stopping to catch his breath. And Pat. I don't even know what Pat's problem is because he's always so busy blaming it on everyone else... But hey, we're here with him."

But why, Alson keeps asking himself, is he now here with them? The answer is soon obvious to the reader of this racy, reckless memoir. The bookie's life is not just lucrative, it is fun. It is fun because it is dangerous.

With the style and gusto of a 1990s Damon Runyan, Alson paints a vivid portrait of a shady New York demi-monde which he clearly enjoyed more than he cares to admit. His rogue's gallery of partners-in-crime step straight out of a latter-day *Guys and Dolls*. He

has a gambler's ear for sharp, witty dialogue, and a fanatic's zeal for the male bonding peculiar to men bent on risk. Whenever he leaves the office to chronicle his hopeless love life, not to mention his inner torment, the reader becomes a vicarious gambler, anxious to get back to the action.

After his nightmare comes true, and the law intervenes, Alson returns via a hilarious jailhouse denouement to a dreary old straight-and-narrow. He swaps the life of a bookie for — surprise, surprise — that of a writer writing about bookies. At which he is so good that it is almost a shame that he will no doubt, move on to other themes.

Adrian Mole's crusader

STEPHEN J. RIVELLE presents his text as a translation of an 11th-century "diary" kept by his ancestor, Roger L'Esquivel, a French nobleman from the Cevennes and one of the leaders of the First Crusade to Jerusalem. I puzzled over whether the whole thing was authentic, as it vigorously claims to be. Then I spotted that "e" on the end of the word "Booke" which is to any noun what fake verdigris is to ironwork.



Rivelle: ancient script

Rivelle tells us he was put onto the manuscript, which had been lying in the crypt of a church in the Cevennes for almost 1,000 years, by a lady in the public records office in Lyons. Somebody should have interviewed that lady. She seems to crop up a lot in prefaces of one kind or another. I am sure Julian Barnes knows her, or her cousin in Rouen. On the flimsy and etymologically dodgy basis of the similarity of Rivelle's surname to Roger's soubriquet, the mayor of the village handed over this document, which Rivelle has translated from the Provençal. A translation into French would be hissing with that delightful-

■ A BOOKE OF DAYS
By Stephen J. Rivelle
Macmillan, £16.99
ISBN 0 333 65747 0

ly snide part of speech, the subjunctive of implied disbelief (the imperfect come-off-it). The diary takes us from Montpellier all the way to Jerusalem and back. The accounts of battles are tedious, as accounts of battles almost always are, but the retrospective passages are interesting, even if you sometimes feel that he has slipped

out of his tent for the night and Adrian Mole has taken up his pen on his behalf.

The entries are annotated with little interventions from the descendant-translator, which bring about as much authenticity to the text as that antique "e". Notes do furnish a text, though, don't they? Of a crucial letter received by Roger in Saint Symeon from his wife back in Provence, note 40 tells us, "The letter has obviously been lost". By this time the disappointment is keen. Jehanne's sexual insatiability prompted the penitent Roger's departure, and a brief word from her at this point might have been welcome.

I must, too, acknowledge a debt to the "translator" for the discovery of the adverb of time "yesternorn", and have been trying to work it into my conversation since — well, yesternorn, actually. Had the book been shorter, I would have enjoyed it more, but it is certainly of interest, though, like the crusaders themselves, somewhat weighed down by clobber.

HELEN STEVENSON

Dracula cloaked by anorak

CERTAIN fictional characters attract the anoraks. Their timetables and charts can always prove, for example, that Holmes was treated by Freud. No subsequent incarnation of *Dracula*, however, is a patch on the blood-lenting that is Bram Stoker's one masterpiece. So strong was his conception that it traverses the novel's longueurs — and survives all the spin-offs, from Hammer movies to the recent, half-baked academic theory that the century's end and Aids explain the current penchant for vampirism.

■ SUPPING WITH PANTHERS
By Tom Holland
Little, Brown, £12.99
ISBN 0 316 87622 4

the Ripper, Oscar Wilde, Stoker himself and — somehow — Lord Byron. Told by many of the participants, including a budding actress and an ambitious politician, and deploying a panoply of letters, it is high entertainment with a dash of romance, which traverses London, from Harley Street to an East-End opium den.

All this has its origins in a bizarre, Haggardian ceremony on the Indian border, apparently reported in Colonel Sir William Moorfield's *With Rifles in the Raj*. The medical ramifications of this

tribal ritual are even worse than feared by Dr Eliot, whom Moorfield meets out there. Back in London, a terrible criminal pattern emerges under the microscope.

Needless to say, there is recourse to the contents of a Whitby graveyard. Shocking as the metropolitan revelations prove, they have an undue self-consciousness, whose absence from the long opening section made something genuinely chilling.

Meanwhile, the NHS could surely woo the Government by making blood available — at a price — to these helpless creatures. It would do wonders for the crime rate.

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

Heart on a sleeve

■ THE LATE CHILD
By Larry McMurtry
Orion, £16.99
ISBN 0 75280 070 1

There are two late children, in fact. There is Eddie, five-year-old unplanned light in the life of Harmony, his forty-something mother. And there is Pepper, Harmony's older daughter, out of touch for years, now suddenly dead of Aids in New York.

Harmony is a former Las Vegas showgirl gone slightly, slowly, to seed. Once the most beautiful woman in town, photographed in the casinos with Elvis and Mr Sinatra, she now has only winsome, precocious Eddie to show for a lifetime of hopeless loves.

Faced, abruptly, with the news that she no longer has a daughter, she abandons the flimsy constants of her life and takes to the road. Accompanied by her mismatched sisters, she heads home to Oklahoma.

They lose their luggage in the Grand Canyon, check into a brothel in Jersey City, find a puppy, meet the President, wreck their car. Oklahoma brings a reckoning. Back in the bosom of their dysfunctional family, the sisters consider what's left of their lives.

Vivid, sometimes moving, often funny, this is a sentimental journey to the heart of America. And the heart of America is where it's always been: worn proudly on America's sleeve.

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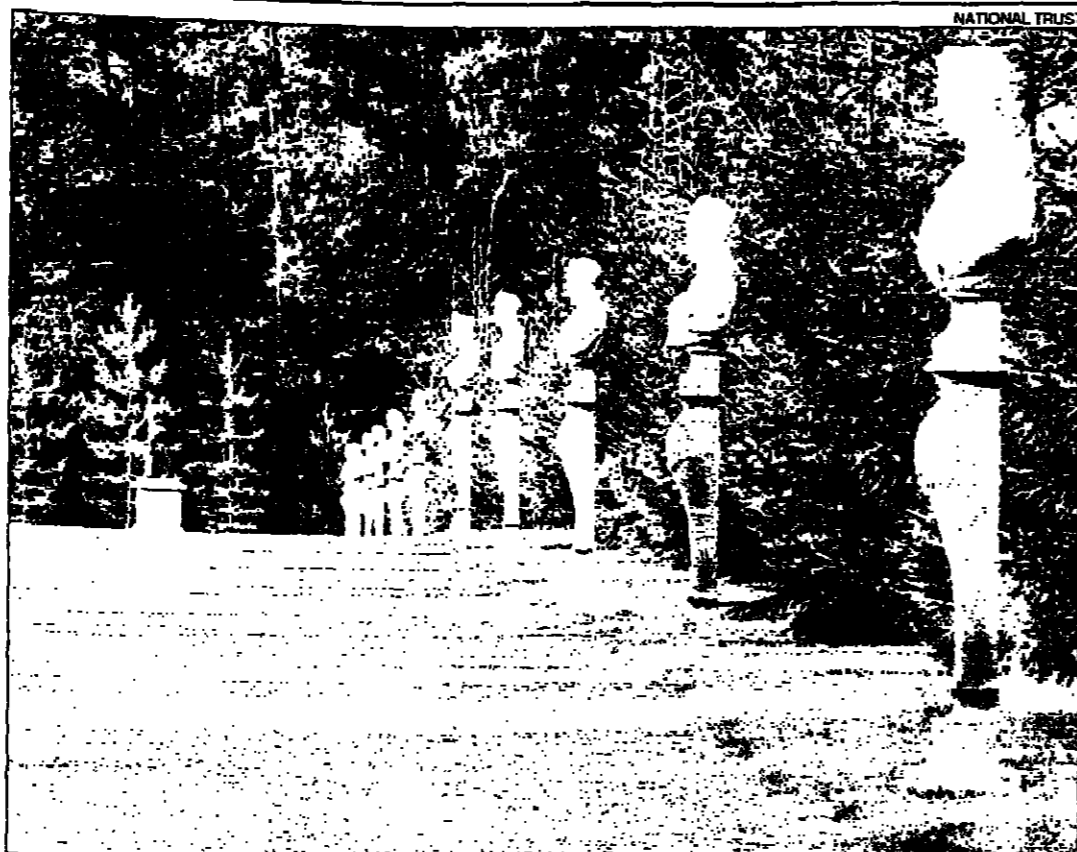
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GOING OUT

GARDENS

CAITHNESS Langwell, Berriedale Scottish houses often had their main garden in a walled enclosure some distance away...



Classic design: Anglesey Abbey offers majestic vistas framed by statues and outstanding trees

HAMPSHIRE Longstock Park Gardens, near Stockbridge Fed by clear water from the chalk-stream River Test...

and asstiles - while the selection of trees such as swamp cypress and liquidambar...

KENT Northbourne Court, Northbourne, Deal Historically, the garden at Northbourne Court is of great distinction...

and down. Small secretive enclosures compliment the vigorous style of the terraces and the summer planting with highlights of old-fashioned pinks, lavender, hardy geraniums...

Anglesey Abbey. Two whole gardens of this impressively grandiose National Trust property are devoted to immaculately presented groups...

Correction The garden at Glebe Cottage in Umberleigh, Devon, is open on September 8 and 29, 2-5pm...

COMING SOON

LONDON From Sep 12 English National Opera Booking is now open for the new season at the London Coliseum...

stage, following the page-to-stage success of Trainspotting, first seen in Glasgow and now receiving its premiere south of the Scottish border at the Haymarket Theatre...



London: Toto La Momposina

GALLERIES

CRITICS CHOICE VELAZQUEZ IN SEVILLE One of the great masterpieces of the National Gallery of Scotland's collection is an early Velazquez, painted when he was in his late teens...

Marlborough Gallery, Albemarle Street, W1 (0171-629 5161). Today, 10am-12.30pm; free. Degas: Beyond Impressionism Sculptures and drawings from the master's latter years...

ICA Gallery, The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647). Today, tomorrow, midday-7.30pm; £2.50. Jack Pierson Prominent contemporary American artist shows new images and sculpture...

DUNDEE The Twentieth Century Gallery Work by James Macintosh Cameron and the Scottish Colourists. Dundee Art Gallery and Museum...

THEATRE LONDON Ferry 'Cross the Mersey Gerry and the Pacemakers, who had their first No 1 hit one month before the Beatles...

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Pasadena Roof Orchestra Showboat 1920s-style dance orchestra. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). Tonight, 8pm; £10-£12.

OPERA CRITICS CHOICE ORFEO ED EURIDICE Having toured America trailing clouds of glory, the collaboration of the Mark Morris Dance Group and Christopher Hogwood's Handel and Hayden Society...

Ruth Gledhill observes the Salvation Army hard at work in Brighton Soldiers of Christ fight on

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activity in Britain. Early reports in War Cpt, the weekly Army newspaper delivered free around pubs, clubs and on the Brighton seafront at our service...

AT REGIONAL SERVICE A five-star guide OFFICERS: Majors John and Christine Travers ARCHITECTURE: Huge decaying Victorian building

JAZZ LONDON Mose Allison Trio Waggish blues veteran from Mississippi joins guitarist Jim Mullen. Pizza Express, Dean Street, W1 (0171-439 8722). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm; £15.

Ed Jones Quintet Artful pop tenorist joins trumpeter Byron Wallen and pianist Jon Gee. Jazz Cafe, Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tonight, 7pm; £8.

Valery Ponomarev Quintet Moscow-born. New York-based hard bop trumpeter of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers fame. Tron Tavern, Blair Street (0131-220 1550). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 3pm; £5.

STOCKPORT La Boheme Puccini's classic opera is staged outdoors. Bramall Hall, (0161-485 3708). Tonight, 7.30pm; £15, concs £7.50.

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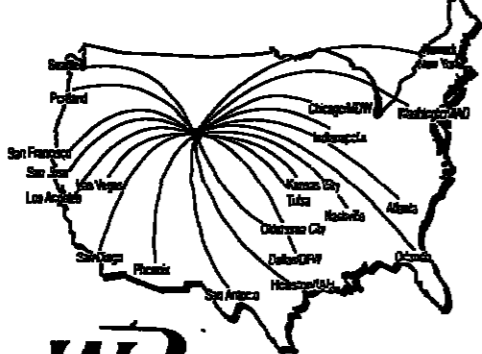
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TRAVEL CONTINUES ON PAGE 19. CITY BREAKS

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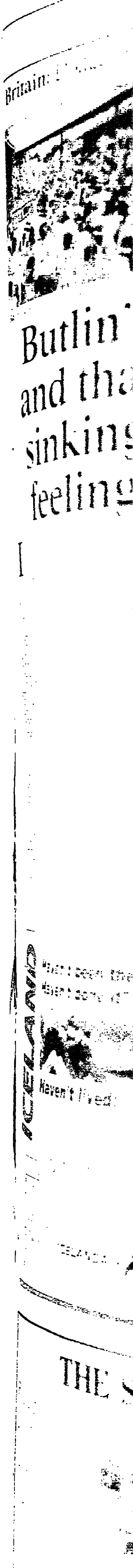
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TRAVEL

Miami: From dazzling 1930s Art Deco hotels and the good life to the wildlife of the mysterious Everglades

The lasting art and soul of the Sunshine state

The preconceived image I had of Miami was not an attractive one: it was a place where the super-rich went to die, and where tourists ran a risk of dying. It would be full of leathery matrons in rhinestone sunglasses, silicone-breasted starlets, and drug-dealers. It would be vulgar, expensive and too hot.

set my heart on cost \$100, plus tax. I settled for a skimpy T-shirt at £26. Later, we took a cab to Cocowalk, an open air shopping complex in Coconut Grove, where we browsed around shops selling jewelry, shoes and yet more swimwear before going for lunch at the Cafe Tu Tu Tango, a tapas bar overlooking the mall, where the small but delicious portions of pizza, risotto and quesadillas soon added up to a full stomach.



Chris Blackwell, who revived four of Miami's Art Deco hotels, keeps his pink Cadillac parked outside the Marlin

Spending a day at the beach is the city's quintessential experience. We chose the Sonesta Beach Resort, on Key Biscayne, a short drive from the city centre across the Rickenbacker Causeway. This private beach, attached to the luxury hotel of the same name, has everything you could wish for: white sand, blue sea, palm trees and an outdoor bar serving planter's punch and strawberry daiquiris.

ing mile after mile of subtropical forest and wetlands. The journey to Everglades City along Highway 41, the "Tamiami Trail", takes an hour and 45 minutes. Once there, it feels as if you've stepped back 40 years. The town's neat wooden houses are built on stilts, to protect against flooding, and are arranged along a grid of streets so straight they must have been laid out on graph paper.

caught off the Atlantic coast that morning. After lunch we went in search of some wildlife: alligators, to be specific. On a bizarre-looking craft with a big fan on the back, we journeyed into the wetlands, through floating islands of sawgrass and waterlilies. Alligators soon appeared, seemingly undeterred by the noise of the boat's engine. They allowed themselves to be photographed and then sank slowly beneath the mirror-like surface of the water.

now too polluted to provide good fishing, our guide said, so the indigenous population of Miccosukee Indians had been forced to look elsewhere for their livelihood. He had grown up in one of the Everglades' villages; it is now deserted, a sad reminder of a vanished way of life.

Next stop was the more serene Delano Hotel on Collins Avenue, whose romantically surreal lobby and bar, designed by Phillip Starck, seems like a backdrop for a Vogue photo-shoot. The night was still young, and there were still places to go, people to see. In Miami, the only thing you might find in short supply is sleep.

MIAMI FACT FILE
American Airlines (0181-577 9966) flies direct from Heathrow to Miami from £325 (low season) to £525.
Recommended hotels and the costs per person a night, room only, are: Park Central Hotel, from £51; Doubletree Hotel, £70; and the Sonesta Hotel, Key Biscayne, £106.

TRAVEL DIRECTORY
SWEDEN
Stockholm: "Venice of the North" outshines its Italian cousin
PAGE 16
BRITAIN
Butlin's, fulfilment of a childhood dream at last
PAGE 17
BRAZIL
Exploring the jungle that is Rio de Janeiro at its lively best
PAGES 18,19
TRAVEL TIPS, PAGE 20

Orlando: Bored with theme parks? Disney can help you learn more than you wanted to know

The heart of the Disney World theme park in Orlando, Florida, is probably the last place you would expect to find one of the more obscure musings of Winston Churchill about education, hand-painted above a doorway. It is just not that sort of place. At least, not until

recently. In its search for ever more innovative ways of luring people to its 30,000-acre resort, Disney has come up with a college-style campus where tourists bored with the thrill of the theme park can learn some useful, and some not-so-useful skills.



Mickey Mouse teaching course

ing to research, are looking for an "enrichment vacation". Britons, however, may be less enamoured with the "education". They may also be put off by the Disney approach which encourages participants to "bond" with fellow students at the beginning of each session, a group therapy that Americans seem to embrace enthusiastically, even if it is just to learn how to create an animated character or take better photographs.

Most non-Americans on my courses (cooking and animation) were, quite frankly, embarrassed. The two-hour relationship course to "empower your life and work with new vigour and vitality" might be beyond the pale for most Britons.

ing to research, are looking for an "enrichment vacation". Britons, however, may be less enamoured with the "education". They may also be put off by the Disney approach which encourages participants to "bond" with fellow students at the beginning of each session, a group therapy that Americans seem to embrace enthusiastically, even if it is just to learn how to create an animated character or take better photographs.

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Tucked away from the theme park, the Disney Institute is in its own grounds of pastel-coloured buildings designed to evoke turn-of-the-century small-town America. With studios, theatres, kitchens and sports facilities, it offers a core of about 60 learning programmes to teach everything from cooking and animation techniques to topiary and television news scripting. Being American, it inevitably has courses for "personal development".

guest lecturers supplement the regular tutors and British tastes are represented by the lyricist Tim Rice, who earned huge royalties from the film The Lion King.

DAVID CHURCHILL
The author was a guest of the Disney Institute at Disney World.
Bridge Travel Service (01992 456 101) has a seven-night institute offer, including flights, accommodation, meals and classes, at 1997 per person.

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Stockholm: The supposed 'Venice of the North' is much cleaner and better run than its Italian cousin

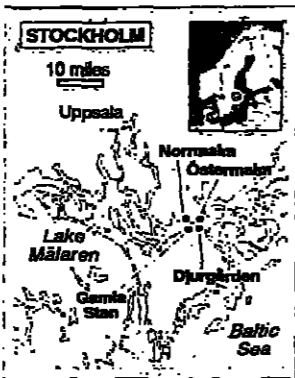
Swedes with a watery taste

Ingmar Bergman, one of Stockholm's most famous sons, said: "It's ridiculous to think of Stockholm as a city, it is simply a rather large village. You wonder what it's doing there, looking so important."

Certainly, with only a third of its area occupied by buildings (one third is water and the other parkland), much of the capital does not feel like a city at all. Of course, it has wide, elegant boulevards lined with smart shops and huge modern shopping centres, but Stockholm does have a fresh, wholesome, almost unworshiped feel about it. In which other city could you dive off steps by the city hall or fish for salmon in the town centre?

It is probably unfair to call Stockholm the "Venice of the north". An abundance of water and a long mercantile and military history may allow comparisons but there any similarity ends. It is cleaner and more efficiently run than Venice, accommodating its substantial tourist influx rather than being swamped by it. Finally, there may be some wider significance in the fact that, for geological reasons, Stockholm is rising, whereas Venice is sinking.

Stockholm consists of 28 islands lying in a wide estuary



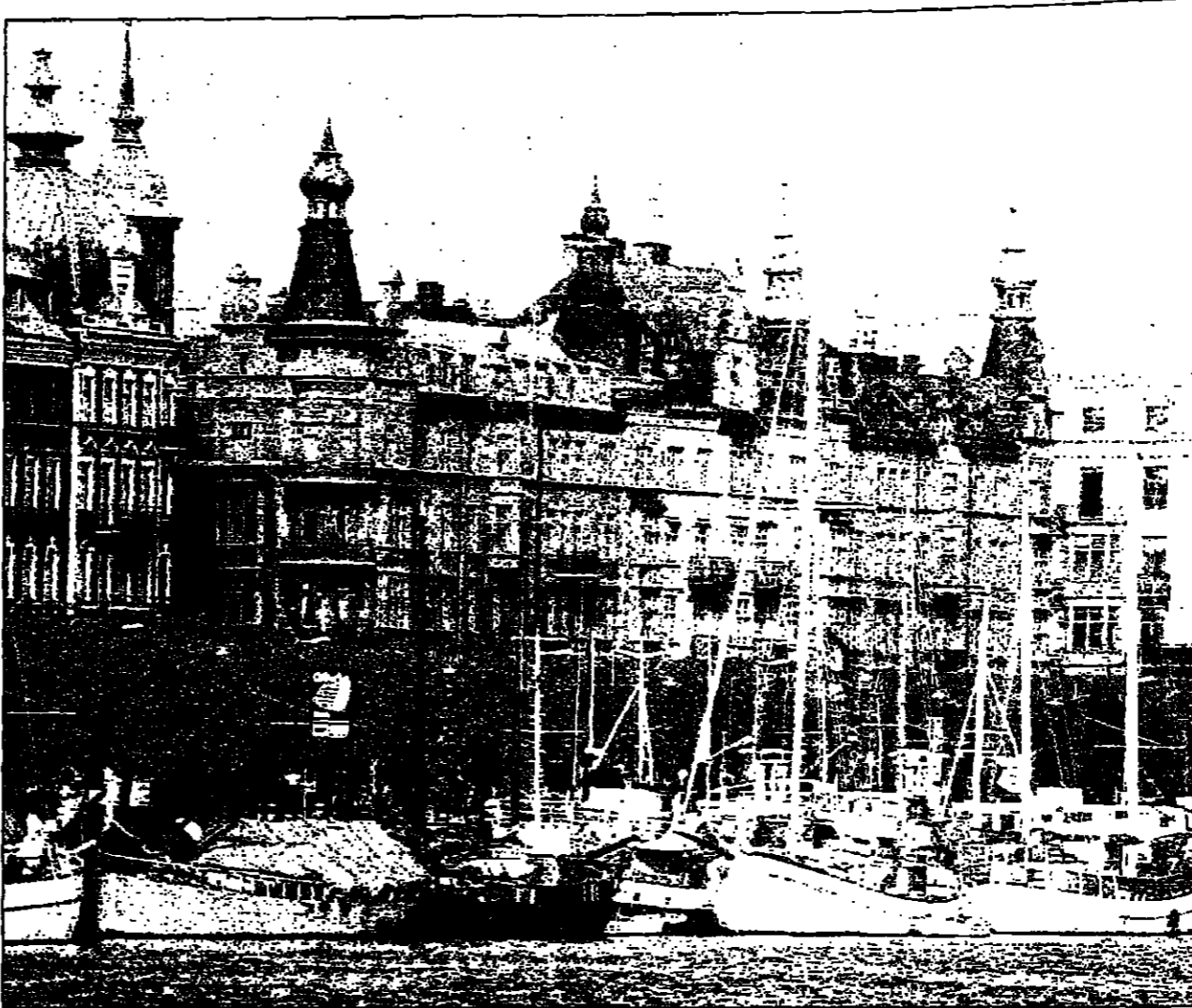
leading to the Baltic and the sea is a constant brooding presence. Wherever you go you are reminded of the role of water in the city's history. Whether glittering in the gentle summer sun or frozen flat and slate grey in the winter, it provides a simple, serene backdrop to the city's magnificent Baroque architecture. The old town, Gamla Stan, where Stockholm was founded in the 13th century, is dominated by the royal palace, the Kungliga Slottet. Larger than Buckingham Palace, as the Swedes will tell you, this vast baroque and rococo confection stands as a monument to the wealth and power of Sweden's 18th-century kings. Today, the country's bicycling monarchy has cycled off to its country resi-

dence and so the palace is used only for state occasions. The state apartments are open to the public, as is the Treasury with its array of royal jewellery dating back to 1650.

Because most of Gamla Stan is closed to cars, you can walk right up to the palace and the Storkyrkan, the Great Church. At night, the cobbled streets, Baroque decorations and gentle lighting give it the appearance of a stage set for a Mozart opera. By contrast, the simple interior of the Great Church is striking with its brick columns and black and silver altarpieces. This is the highest point of the old town and Swedish kings and queens are crowned and married here.

Given its size and international standing, Stockholm has more than its fair share of castles, monuments and palaces whose history is reflected in their magnificent architecture and decoration.

The Riddarhuset, the House of Nobles, where the upper house met in the 17th century, displays 2,500 coats of arms. On the neighbouring island is Riddarholmkyrkan church, where 600 years' worth of Swedish kings are buried. Leading down from the royal palace and Stortorget, the main square, are narrow



Wherever you look, the watersides of Stockholm are crammed with working boats, ferries and pleasure cruisers

cobbled streets filled with shops, Konditoris (patisseries), restaurants and the old, tall merchants' houses. By contrast, Södermalm and Ostermalm, to the west, have a strong American feel, with large modern blocks and wide streets of surging traffic.

Sweden takes its design seriously, and there are plenty of shop windows displaying the distinctively stark Post-Modernist style which is again fashionable. Clothes and furniture shops abound, such as Design Target (near the Kulturhuset), the Conranesque R.O.O.M. (Alstromergatan 20) and NK (Hamngatan 18-20), the city's main department store. Prices may limit most to window shopping.

Temporarily but comfortably housed in Normalm until the opening of its new venue in 1998, when the city becomes European cultural capital, is the Modern Art Museum with a respectable collection of American and European post and abstract Impressionists.

Sweden's museums are run with gentle efficiency. The most innovative of them are on Djurgården, an island to the

north of Gamla Stan, which is almost exclusively parkland. For my money, the most striking of them all is the Vassa, which takes its name from the 300-year-old warship it houses. Nothing can prepare you for the vast, menacing presence of this 700-tonne warship, raised from Stockholm harbour where it sank 15 minutes into its maiden voyage in 1628.

Almost as awe-inspiring is the Guldrummet at the Historiska Museet in Ostermalm, a womb-like subterranean vault with gold coins and jewellery dating from 10,000 BC.

Should you crave even more water and island life, the Stockholm archipelago has 24,000 islands which can be reached by boat. Most are deserted, but others support tiny communities in traditional wooden houses. You are allowed to land on any of the islands one and walk around the shoreline, provided that you do not annoy its owner.

The summer offers guaranteed crowd-free swimming, sailing and sunbathing, especially on Sandhamn, home of

the Royal Yacht Club. During the winter you can skate from one island to another.

Swedish food is fighting a losing battle against lighter more varied immigrant varieties, especially Italian. The indigenous fare is fish-based and hearty, but most restaurants, such as Diana (Brunnsgränd 2) or Hannas Krog (Skanegatan 50) offer a successful mixture.

Similarly, Swedish patisserie is comforting rather than dainty, but irresistible combined with aromatic Swedish coffee offered in the cosy warmth of one of the city's coffee shops such as Sturekatten (Riddarsgränd 4). More effete patisserie is available at the Opera House Cafe where you can attack a smorgasbord of gâteaux and coffee and look out over the water.

SIMON BROOKE
The author was a guest of SAS, the Hotel Victory and Kallhagens.

FACT FILE

- SAS (0345 010789) and BA (0345 111222) have regular flights from London to Stockholm from £205 return.
- Hotel Victory, Lilla Nygatan (00 46 8 143090, fax 202177) and Kallhagens Wardshus, Djurgårdsbrunnsvägen 10 (00 46 8 6650300, fax 6650399) offer two-night weekend breaks, including flights from £335.
- Weekend and short breaks, including flights and accommodation, are available from £220 with Norvika (0171-409 7334), and from £289 with SAS (0141-951 8988). Scan Meridian offers holidays in the Stockholm archipelago from £259 and packages to the city itself.
- Recommended guides: *The Rough Guide to Scandinavia* (£10.99) and *Fodor's Sweden* (£9.99).
- Average winter temperatures in Stockholm are -3C; summer, 15C-20C. Long summer nights change the character of the city, with more events (especially eating and drinking) taking place. Winters are cold but often sunny.
- Swedish Travel and Tourism Council, 11 Montagu Place, London W1 (0171-724 5868).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 21

HAMMADA

(b) A flat rocky area of desert blown free of sand by the wind, typical of the Sahara. The Arabic word *hammada*, "Rocky wastes, with the bare exposure of fissured rocks as dominant features of the scene, form the hammada type of the Sahara."

MONADNOCK

(c) A hill or mountain of erosion-resistant rock rising above a plain. A toponym from the name of a mountain in New Hampshire, USA, having this character. The toponym appears in Melville's *Moby Dick* (1851), "his great Monadnock hump", Auden's *Age of Anxiety*, 1947: "O stiffly stand, a staid monadnock, / On her peneplain."

HEPBURN

(b) A Romanised transcription of Japanese characters. An eponym of J. C. Hepburn (1815-1911), an American missionary and physician. "These [Japanese] sounds are transcribed into Roman letters, either by the Hepburn system or by the Japanese system of 'New spelling'. The outside world sticks to the Hepburn system."

MACHER

(a) A man of importance, a braggart. Often derogatory. Yiddish, from the German *macher* a maker or doer. Saul Bellow, *Herzog*, 1964: "He's a fine fellow. Not like that macher, Alexander. Always some scandal about him."

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Butlin and the sinking feeling

THE

TRAVEL

Britain: Dodgems and disappointment in Minehead; unlimited fun for children and parents in Wiltshire



Butlin's fare is time-warp 1950s. Fresh food was scarce

Butlin's and that sinking feeling

I was half term at Butlin's, Minehead, on the north Somerset coast. The sun shone brightly, its heat tempered by a sharp sea breeze. My two young sons and I slid down the helter skelter, rode the carousel, ate candy floss and ice-cream and felt slightly sick on a number of gravity defying rides.

thing I should have noticed in the brochure. With the help of vivid descriptions of three sweaty people going three days without washing, we persuaded customer services reluctantly to lend us some. I also forgot soap, but found some in the 24-hour supermarket where the extensive stock included Butlin's own-label sparkling wine. In a panic I looked beneath the bedcovers: fortunately, I had not been expected to bring sheets.



Take the plunge at Butlin's in Minehead, Somerset, but visitors must remember to bring their own towels, they are not provided, and nor is soap

When we went on the dodgems a mouse girl yelled at us not to bump into any other car, which seemed to defeat the object of the game. It could be argued that £171.39 for three nights for three people on half board with a good amount of entertainment is too good a deal to allow for complaint. But no one should have to suffer dirt, shabbiness, barely adequate food, a string of hidden costs and a staff who make you wish you had stayed at home.

What surprised me most were the hidden costs. Having been to a number of funfairs, this was the first where each group of rides had one which William and Oliver instantly saw to be best and which invariably cost money, sometimes 50p, sometimes one or two pounds, or more. In addition, the shopping mall was the hub of the entire complex. I could see why the management had placed it between the rooms and the activities, but it seemed tough to have a sports rental shop that fleeced a lad of £2.50 for one hour's use of a skateboard.

FACT FILE
Butlin's brochures can be ordered from Butlin's Holiday Worlds, Freepost WD496, Hermitage Road, London N4 1BR, or by telephone (0181-880 8181); Central Butlin's booking is 0345 700700.
Weekend breaks are from Friday afternoon to Monday (check-out at 10am, activities for the rest of the day).
The July 5-8 weekend break at Somerwest World costs £75 per adult (15 and over) for a budget room, rising through county room and county suite to a premier room at £134; children aged two to 14 are half price.
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OR TRY CENTER PARCS
LOUISE NICHOLSON'S visit to Butlin's (above) was the fulfilment of a dream that sadly turned sour. Children today clamouring to go to Center Parcs will not be disappointed and nor will their parents, writes Timothy Rice.

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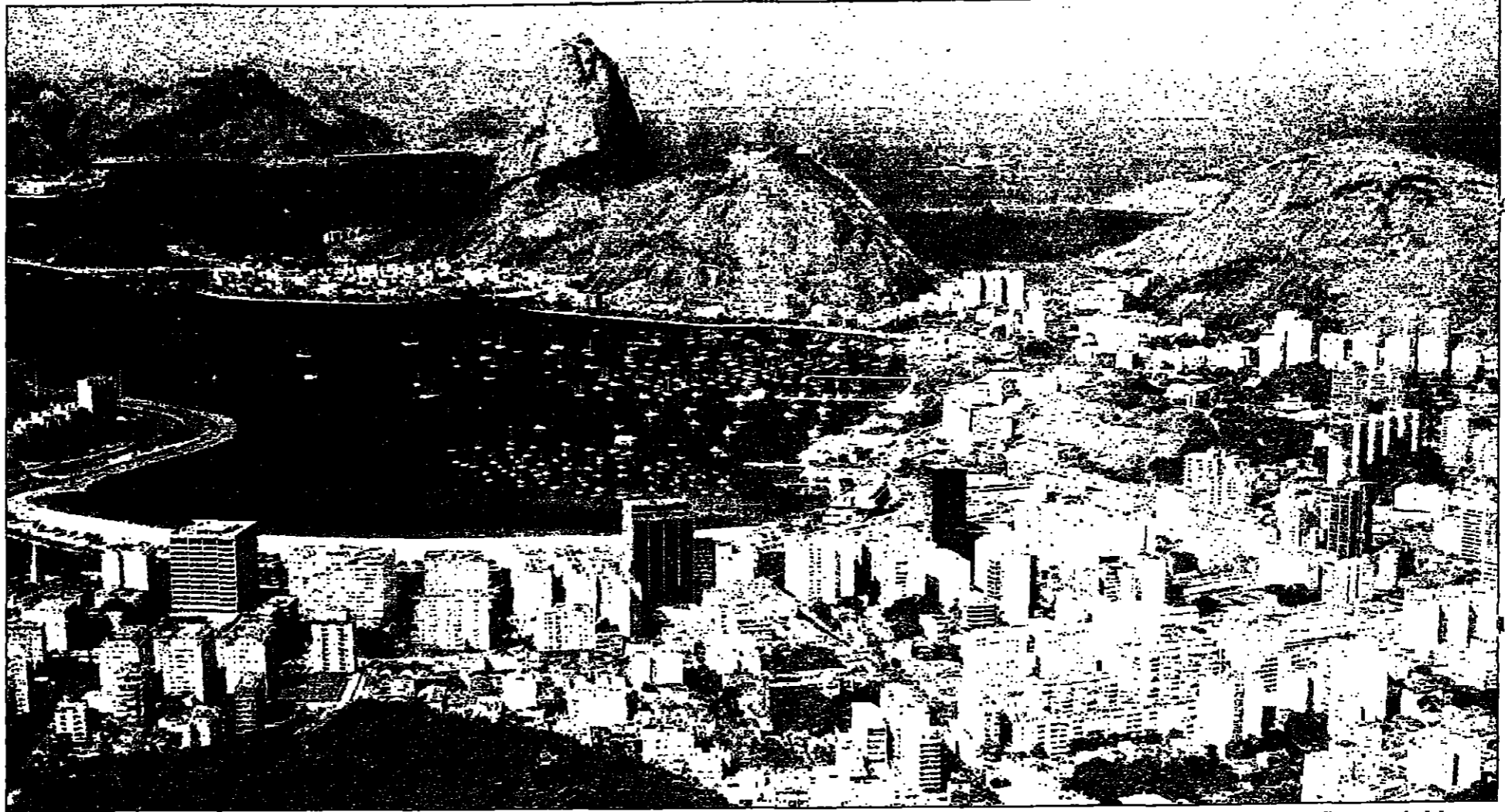
Brazil: An intoxicating look at Rio de Janeiro, a glimpse of the spectacular Iguacu Falls and mountain...

You might as well get drunk if you're not in Brazil

My love affair with Brazil started when I lived there 30 years ago and has continued, despite the infrequency of my visits. My comments following a recent trip there should, I suppose, be taken in the light of this passion.

On the basis that no two-week holiday in a country stretching 4,319km east to west and 4,394km north to south, with more than 153 million inhabitants, can begin to cover the basics, three ports of call must serve to give a flavour.

The first is Rio: *Cidade Maravilhosa*. As the late, great Tom Jobim wrote in his song *Samba do Avião (Aeroplane Samba)*: "My soul sings as I see Rio de Janeiro..." as you set foot on the ground at



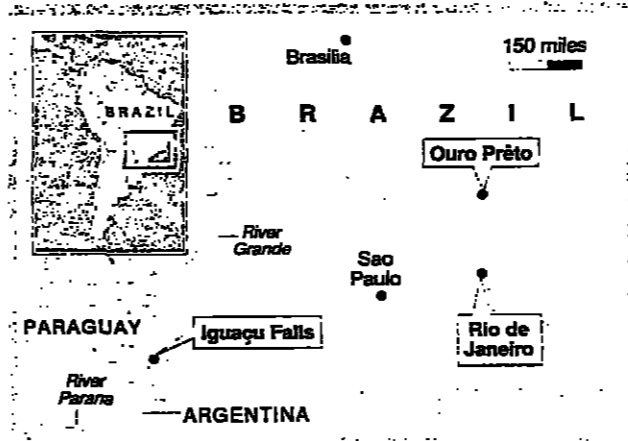
Rio, above, is boisterous, funny, romantic and utterly seductive. Copacabana Beach, below, where the sun shines all year round, is a favourite with Brazilians and visitors

viewing spot is the Corcovado mountain topped by the Christ figure which, arms outstretched, watches over the city. From here, the whole of Guanabara Bay can be seen, as well as the awesome figure of Christ from close-up. Up

there, it feels like a holy place. The racial concoction that gives Brazilians their character can be seen at every street corner. Here, at any *barzinho* (little bar, *zinho* being the ubiquitous diminutive) gulping a *cafézinho*, a delectable *vitamina* (mixed fruit mushed in the whizzer) or a fiery *cachaça* (local sugar cane liquor) are the descendants of Portuguese, Indian and African forebears.

Scarcely a soul in Brazil does not have traces of all of these forebears in their blood. The mixture is boisterous, romantic, funny and utterly seductive, and Brazilian culture, especially its music, dancing, cooking, art and architecture, flourishes in the rich stew.

There's no place better to observe these characteristics than at *Estudantina*, a cavernous 1940s-style dancehall in the centre of the city. Write large as you enter the generous wooden staircase are the words: "Enquanto houver dança haverá esperança" — (While there is dancing there is hope). Lofty wooden ceilings, walls plastered in photo-



graphs, wooden floors swept by whooshing gusts of wind from the fans and the windows wide open to the warm Rio night, this has been a dancing rendezvous for 50 years and remains virtually unchanged.

A jaunty 12-piece band resplendent in cricketer whites plays the night away; this is not carnival, this is every week: *sambas* and *chorinhos*, *lambadas*, *boleros* and *salsas*, plus foxtrots and quicksteps. Participants actually hold

each other as in ballroom dancing in what is a revived craze throughout Brazil, as well as, I gather, in the rest of the world. Whole families, streetloads of people, turn up in their glad rags: old, young, fat, thin, black, white, chauffeurs and domestics, privileged and poor, the mix is infinite. Rules are written up on the walls: no short skirts, no drinks, no "rough kissing". Inside the ever-glamorous "Copa" hover the ghosts of stropky-looking woman



whose pictures line the Golden Room along with Carmen Miranda, Thomas Mann, Bing Crosby, Igor Stravinsky, Mick Jagger, Mary Pickford, Margot Fonteyn, Orson Welles and a host of other celebs (including, mind-bogglingly, John Major), all of whom have signed the famous Golden Book, going strong since 1923.

An enchanting view of Brazilian life and death can be seen in the museum of folk art at the *Casa do Pontal*, which lies at the end of the string of beaches which extend from Leme and Copacabana, through Leblon, Ipanema, Barra da Tijuca and beyond. Lovingly assembled over 40 years by Jacques van de Beuzue, it contains more than 3,500 objects in clay and wood by native artists from all over Brazil. All human life is here, some of it mechanically active as in the great set pieces: a wedding or a circus or a carnival in Rio; others are static — midwives attending births, dentists and doctors operating, footballers playing, musicians thumping away.

Continued on next page

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TRAVEL

...splendours of Ouro Preto, a gold-mining town with a few baroque surprises

BRAZIL FACT FILE
Summer in Brazil is from December to March. In Rio the temperature rarely drops below 28C but it can be very hot in high summer. Autumn and spring are still warm enough to swim. A light jacket might be needed at night in winter. Sunshine and blue skies can be relied on at all times.
Varig Brazilian Airlines has five direct flights a week to Rio de Janeiro from Heathrow. Wednesday and Thursday flights are non-stop, while Friday, Saturday and Sunday flights are via São Paulo. Return flights cost from about £620.
Copacabana Palace, Avenida Atlântica, 1702 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil CEP 22021-001 (00 55 21 255 7070, fax 00 55 21 235 7330). On the promenade facing Copacabana beach, this impressive white-stucco edifice is Rio's most traditional and luxurious hotel. Cost per person sharing a double/twin room, room only, from £70-£100 a night. Suites from £125 per person per night. Reservations: Orient-Express Hotels 0181-568 3366.
Tours arranged through Classico Turismo, Vera Joppert, Av N Sra de Copacabana 1059/805, 22060-000 (00 55 21 287 3390, fax 00 55 21 521 4636).
Copacabana Palace and Classico tours may also be booked through Latin America Travel, 7 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6JX (0171-630 0070, fax 0171-630 9900), or Journey Latin America, 14-16 Devonshire Road, London W4 2HD (0181-747 8315, fax 0181-742 1312).
Parque das Aves (Bird Park), Rodovia das Cataratas is situated near to the Iguaçu Falls National Park (00 55 21 523 1007).
Casa do Pontal, 3295 Estrada do Pontal (off Avenida Sernambetiba) (00 55 21 437 6278/226 3540/226 4914). Open Sat-Sun 2-6pm; about £2.30. Allow about half a day for the visit.



The statue of Christ which overlooks Guanabara Bay and the city of Rio from the top of Corcovado mountain

families at dinner, school-rooms, shoemakers, even journalists sucking their pens are depicted in loving detail.
Your second part of call must be the Iguaçu Falls, one of the wonders of the world. This is no mere waterfall any more than the Sahara is a pile of sand. A two-hour flight from Rio gets you to Iguaçu, which sits on the frontiers of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. On the Brazilian side, we approached the falls from below by large rubber boat with two big engines. Although clad in what felt like large condoms, we were soaked to the skin by the time we'd white-watered it up to the nearest fall. The pilot seemed to sense a game crowd in our boat. Thrills? We had 'em in buckets.
On the Argentinian side is

the spot where The Mission was filmed. This is jaw-droppingly awesome. Huge flocks of terns wheel into the spray for their morning shower, looping in and out of the almost permanent rainbow. Nothing can prepare you for the sight. Our guide says there are three or four suicides a year here: a spectacular and very certain way to go.
Near Iguaçu is a bird park which I felt duty bound to visit in honour of Juju, my Amazon parrot. Opened in 1994, it is a feast of feathers in their natural habitat. Flocks of butterflies (there are 3,500 different species) accompany us everywhere we go, alighting all over us, six or eight per head in places. Some of the birds are nearly as friendly

and numerous. Talk about Eden... The third part of call must be Ouro Preto, an exquisite, baroque-style gold-mining town in the mountains about 480km northeast of Rio. You fly into Belo Horizonte from Rio (one hour) and then take a two-hour bus or taxi ride. But it is pure joy when you get there.
I have recently been re-drawn to it by reading the letters of the American poet Elizabeth Bishop who lived in Ouro Preto. "Here where all the world still stops," she wrote in one of her poems (Under the Window, Ouro Preto), and while more torments thunder past it than when she was there in the late 1960s and early 1970s, her house Casa Mariana still clings to the side of the mountain she described so vividly in her letters. As I

sat in a nearby bar downing my caipirinha and watching night fall over this blessed valley of 45,000 people and 20 gilded churches, the moon rose, and I wished I too could write poetry. Around every corner in Ouro Preto a shock of beauty lies in wait. Built along the sides of a valley, the painted houses hang off the sides; the churches soar above it all. Aleijadinho, (a brutal nickname meaning "little cripple") was the famous sculptor responsible for much of the town's baroque decoration.
For me, three words sum up the essence of Brazil: Caipirinha (Kaip-ee-ring-er) - a drink more potent, moreish and gratifying than anything you'll ever taste. First acquire a bottle of Cachaça (cache-arse-er), a sugar cane alcohol costing about £17 in Soho or

New York, as well as for a few dollars in every barzinho in Brazil. Next come limes; lemons won't do. Cut them into eighths and place five or six in the bottom of a glass. Add a heaped teaspoon of caster sugar, crush with a pestle or blunt instrument. Splash a generous amount of cachaça into the mixture and fill with broken ice. Drink and repeat.
The second word is Jeito or Jeitinho (jay-too or jay-teen-oo), a word you must get around Brazil. It means "a way", as in "There must be a way to jump this queue, park this car and so on." Jeito is a bit of charm, a lot of patience, and a ton of chutzpah. You can acquire it, as opposed to being born with it, and after a few weeks it will have magically become part of your basic equipment. A couple of books

will help you get around: Rio: the Guide by Christopher Rickard and How to be a Cariocas: The Alternative Guide for the Tourist in Rio by Priscilla Ann Goslin.
And the last word is Saudades (sow-dah-dez), which there isn't a word for in English. They are wistful longings more powerful than nostalgia, and are felt both for people and places; crucially for Brazil when you leave. Someone told me they also include "might have beens", which adds another twist to the knife in the heart. I'm feeling them right now. Only a caipirinha might assuage the pain. Or perhaps two.
LIZ CALDER
The author was a guest of Varig Airlines and the Copacabana Palace Hotel.

An Ernest look at life

There is a scene in Ernest Hemingway's memoir of Paris. A Moveable Feast, where he sits in his attic room at Rue Descartes, his pen iced to a halt by the cold. He considers buying kindling and wood at the corner shop, but worries that the fire may not take and his limited money will be squandered. Instead, he walks out into the rain.
"I walked past the Lycée Henri Quatre and the ancient church of St-Etienne-du-Mont and the windswept Place du Pantheon and cut in for shelter to the right and finally came out on the lee side of the Boulevard St-Michel and on

flat that had no hot water and no inside toilet facilities except an antiseptic container, not uncomfortable to anyone who was used to a Michigan out-house". None of the writers was bothered by lack of comfort. In 1928, Orwell moved in down the road at 6 Rue du Poitevin. He says the concierge in the equally grubby hotel opposite once came out to berate one of her residents for squashing bed bugs on the wallpaper: "Why can't you throw them out of the window like everyone else?"
There are two ways of discovering Hemingway country. The first and easiest is to join Paris Walking Tours for their two-hour trip round the guide Oriol Caine, which includes the other landmarks on the hill Sainte Genevieve like the Pantheon and the church of St-Etienne, and quotes from the various authors. The walk is amusing and thoroughly recommended. For the more independent, a copy of Paris - a Literary Companion will take you to essential sites. It includes maps and quotes from the works of many authors which can be read on the doorstep or in the café in question.
The Hemingway addict must carry a copy of A Moveable Feast. As he notes: "Paris was always worth it and you received return for whatever you brought to it. But this is how Paris was in the early days when we were very poor and very happy."
KATE MUIR
Paris - A Literary Companion by Ian Littlewood John Murray Publishers, £11.99. Paris Walking Tours, Hemingway's Paris (001, 48 09 21 40). August kitche special: Festival d'été de la chanson populaire française, 8.30pm and 10.30pm daily at Théâtre Moinmartre-Galabru (42 23 15 85).



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TRAVEL

TONY STONE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

A la carte holidays

EXPERIENCED long-haul travellers are demanding more flexibility and independence in the choice of itineraries and accommodation, says Sue Biggs of Kuoni (01306 740500), one of Britain's top long-haul specialists. Smaller companies have been offering tailor-made holidays for years, but now Kuoni is able to assemble and price 'a la carte' holidays instantly, using the brochure as the basic menu, without surcharge.

For 1996-97, Cuba, Chile, cruises from the Maldives, Phuket and Bali are being introduced, with special offers for single travellers and children. For example, a 14-night Images of India tour, visiting Cochin, Kumarakom and Puriyar, costs from £1,299.

Battle tours

ON THE 40th anniversary of the 1956 Allied landings at Suez, Holts' Tours (01304 612248) is running a ten-night trip which visits the landing area at Port Said and other battlefields. Sites of the 1967 and 1973 Egypt-Israel wars are also included on the tour, plus the Pyramids and the Tutankhamun treasures in Cairo. The trip, which leaves on November 1, costs from £1,347.

Japan saver

THERE ARE savings of £500 on a ten-day tour to Japan departing on September 13: the tour, which includes flights, accommodation

and visits to Tokyo, Mount Fuji, Kyoto, Osaka and a journey on the bullet train, costs £1,290 from Japan Experience (01703 730830).

Truffle hunt

IT'S THEORETICALLY possible to make a profit on the Alternative Travel Group's (01865 513333) Umbrian truffle hunting holidays in October and December. As well as the search for the elusive and expensive "black diamonds", the seven-night holiday includes cooking demonstrations, walks and visits to churches, museums and castles. The trip costs between £1,035 and £1,075 for flights, all meals and three-star hotel accommodation in Norcia.

Golfing orgy

GOLFING specialists Longshot Golf (01730 230361) is offering an Around the World in 30 Days golfing orgy in October 1997. The tour sees off at Wentworth, and then heads off to famous courses in the United Arab Emirates, the Pines in Brisbane, the Boulder in Arizona and Sentosa in Singapore. Accommodation, flights and green fees are included in the price of £11,000.

Bonn chance

AN EIGHT-DAY Beethoven Marathon is being held in the composer's native Bonn from September 21 with a grand finale of 31 hours of non-stop music. Locations include the church where he was baptised, the church where he learnt to play the organ, and the Redoute where he met Haydn.

British conductor Roger Norrington and the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra are taking part. Moswin Tours (0116 271 9922) offers three-night B&B breaks from £273, including flights, and can arrange all concert tickets.

Thai down

NEW ROUTES for the Eastern and Oriental Express (0171-805 5100) include Kanchanaburi in western Thailand and the bridge over the River Kwai this autumn, and a journey between Bangkok and Chiang Mai early next year. Prices for the two-night Singapore, River Kwai to Bangkok trip are from £890, the one-night Bangkok to Chiang Mai route from £550.

Children free

MORE THAN 700 hotels and guest houses in Austria offer free bedrooms for children under 12 during the Family Autumn period between September 1 and November 3. Details from the Austrian Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).

Late choices

TRAVELLERS seeking last-minute bargain holidays where accommodation is allocated on arrival (the type of holiday that probably generates more complaints from travellers than any other) will be able to pre-select certain requirements on First Choice's new Late Choice scheme, available from travel agents.

Among the categories you can opt for are Near the Beach, where accommodation will either be on the beach or within 200 metres,



Enjoy the Austrian Tyrol and save money: 700 hotels and guest houses offer free rooms for children under 12 in the autumn

Families. Couples, or even Naturist, with easy access to nudist beaches.

Cape escape

A NINE-NIGHT holiday in October based in Hermanus, the

whaling capital of South Africa, includes land-based whale watching. The inquisitive mammals play in the surf a stone's-throw from the village.

The trip includes tours of Cape Town, the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve and a two-day drive

along the coast. The price of £1,485 from Discover the World (01737 218800) includes return flights via Amsterdam from Heathrow, or any UK regional airport, all accommodation, some meals, various excursions and whale-watching trips.

CORRECTION
Educational Visits and Exchanges is at 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN (0171-389 4004) and Regent Holidays is 15 John Street, Bristol BS1 2HR (0117-921 1711) not as published in Weekend of August 10.

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GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

British Brilliance

THE BRITISH Championship in Nottingham finished last night, but of the 341 games played, probably the most spectacular was played in the very first round.

It is every player's dream to hunt the opponent's king in destruction and deliver checkmate after a chase winning the entire board. For Andrew Martin this dream came spectacularly true.

White: Tyson Mordue
Black: Andrew Martin
Sicilian Defence

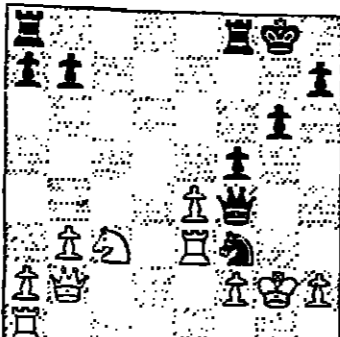
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6
3 ... d4 Bb5 4 Bxc3 Nxd4
5 Qd2 Nc3 6 Bg2 Bg7
7 ... Ng7 8 d4. A possible improvement is the preliminary 8 h3 to prevent ... Bg4.

9 ... exd4 9 cxd4 0-0
10 Qd2 Bg4 11 dxc2 Bxc2
12 Qxd2 Bxc3 13 cxd6

This pawn snatch may look like unwarranted greed, but in any case after 13 g3 dxc5 Black still exerts an unpleasant grip over the central dark squares, with ... Nd4 being a particular threat. Since, in any case, White will inevitably be saddled with shattered kingside pawns, he may as well see some material compensation.

13 ... Qxd6 14 Bxc6 Nxc6
15 g3 Nc4 16 Nc3 15

It is a sign of White's helplessness that he cannot even protect his weak pawn on f3. Before capturing this, though, Black first musters his heavy artillery in the f-file.
17 Kf2 Qf4 18 Rf1 Nxf3. Also strong is 18 ... Qd3+, but with the move he played, Black already has a forcing combinational sequence in mind. 19 Re3.

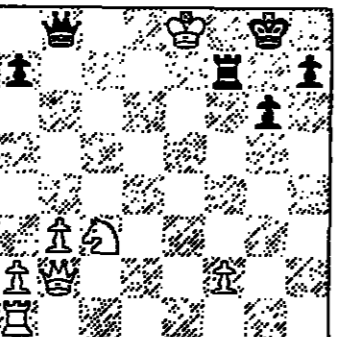


With this move White must have hoped to gain a temporary respite but now Martin sacrifices his knight to drive the white king into the open.

Also possible is 21 ... Rad8 to cut off the white king in mid-board, but the game as played, which leads to a forced win with checks, certainly cannot be faulted.

The white king cannot retreat as that would cost at least the queen. 25 Ke4 b5+. A neat point which closes the noose around the white king. 26 Nxb5 in response would again expose the white queen to capture.

26 Kb4 Qd4+ 27 Kb5. If 27 Ka3, Qd6+ 28 b4 Qxb4 29 Kb3 Qd4 mate.



Checkmate. An astounding final position, with White's king checkmated having travelled from the kingside via the centre to the queen's flank and then journeyed to the very heart of Black's position before expiring.

WINNING MOVE

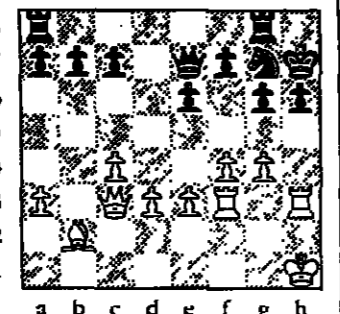
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Haider - Kahler, Vienna 1959.

With his pressure on the long diagonal and along the h-file White has very promising play. How did he now make the most of this?

Send your answers on a postcard to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's winners: P L Vasil, Aberdulfais, Neath; C Martin, Pontyclun, R C Taff; L Hilton, Sutton Coldfield.



Last week's solution: 1 Rd6

PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced with permission from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (13), Weekend Games Page, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 21.



WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO GO OUT ON THE BEACH A LITTLE WHILE, UNCLE?



"As part of the new NHS efficiency scheme, Mr Trotter will be sharing the bed with you"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by P. Eyen of North Walsham, Norfolk

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HAMAIA

- a. A Muslim feast
- b. Bare rock
- c. A Libyan market

MONADNOCK

- a. A rock plant
- b. The Huron peace pipe
- c. A steep mountain

HEPBURN

- a. To overact
- b. Transcription of Japanese
- c. To procrastinate

MACHER

- a. A VIP
- b. A hand axe
- c. Aggressively masculine

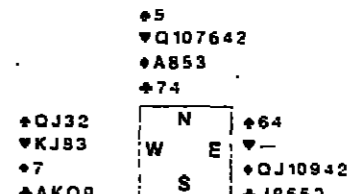
Answers on page 16

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

HUMPTY DUMPTY told Alice: "When I use a word it means just what I choose it to mean." Some players have a similar attitude over their signals. Look at East's problem on these two layouts. East is defending a No-Trump contract and needs four more tricks; his partner has just switched to the ace:

Dealer East North-South game



(i) A led 10876 KQJ2
(ii) A led 10876 J432

In the first case East clearly has to play the two — any higher one will give a fourth-round trick to dummy. Most players would realise that, and the good ones would play the two in tempo. But let us assume in the second case an unlikely switch would beat the contract. If West nevertheless continues the original suit after East has played the two, there are players who will say after the hand "didn't you see my two?". They are guilty of Humpty Dumpty Syndrome (HDS) — they want the two to be an on-me-in in layout I, and to be discouraging in layout II.

A different form of HDS occurred on this hand from the 1996 European Youth Championships (see top of next column).

At one table in the match between Denmark and Sweden, East opened Two Clubs, showing a hand with at least nine cards in clubs and another suit. South overcalled Two Spades, which was passed out.

At the other table East's opening bid of Four Diamonds worked well (in junior bridge, Three Diamonds would be considered pitifully wet). South overcalled Four Spades and West's double ended the auction.

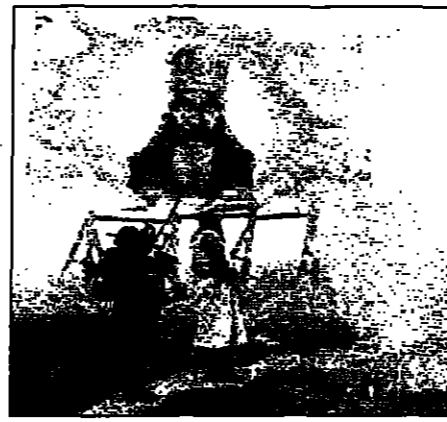
At both tables the lead was a top club, and at both tables East played the jack. And at both tables the second trick was ♠ Q, 7, 3, 10.

Obviously both Wests had read the jack of clubs as showing the ten, and each of them wanted to put their partner in to push back a heart. But each East had chosen the meaning they wanted — on this occasion, the jack of clubs was to be a Mckerny for a heart switch. Their partners for a see it that way, correctly in my view. Unless it is clear that a signal is suit preference, it should be interpreted in a natural way. Thus in this case the jack either showed the ten, or conceivably a doubleton (possible in the second auction).

What each East should have done was to follow with the two on the first round, showing an odd number of clubs. Then on the second round of the suit they could play the jack, which would now be a suit-preference for a heart. Thus declarer could have been held to seven tricks, rather than the embarrassing nine he actually took.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



The Monty Python team goes in search of the Holy Grail on 7th Level CD-Rom

NOT EVEN a biker's leather uniform could save you from scratches in *Road Rash*. Sega Saturn's masterful motorcycle racer. You start in 15th place and all that's keeping you from first position are a bunch of awkward obstacles, including pedestrians, fire hydrants and oncoming cars. Come off your bike at speed and you fly through the air before unceremoniously crashing onto the pavement.

Before you can rejoin the race, you must dart back to your crumpled cycle and remount. Further hazards come from your fellow competitors who will gladly employ fists and iron bars to nuzzle you — so you have to do it to them before they do it to you.

Also to be avoided — by outrunning them if you can — are over-zealous motorcycle cops.

What separates the Hondas from the Harley Davidsons in *Road Rash* are the stunning photorealistic backgrounds. Painted in inviting pastel shades, the city and seascapes are superbly detailed but most dramatic is the undulating straight road, carving its way through America's Napa Valley.

Mankind seems to have been on the road for the best part of a

thousand years in search of the legendary Holy Grail — the sacred cup supposedly used by Jesus Christ at the last supper. First on its trail were the knights of King Arthur, and, more recently, in the mid-Seventies, it was the Python team when they brought us *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Now the best parts of the film have been reworked to form the basis of a CD-Rom game from 7th Level — *Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail*. Frankly, any title which boldly declares "No Refunds" in an early screen can't be all bad.

The game is set in England in AD 932 with God charging a hapless King Arthur to find the bowl which brims with magical, mysterious powers. Obedient Arthur, accompanied by his faithful servant Patsy, rounds up the lads, starting with Lancelot and Galahad, and off they all trot — to the sound of clapping coconuts but without real horses.

A succession of encounters, challenges and puzzles follow, all boasting a distinctive Pythonesque flavour. Some scenes must be

fairly bland, but the humour levels are set high enough to carry the game's low-lights.

The reward for finally tracking down the elusive grail is a scene from the film which originally ended up on the cutting room floor — King Brian the Wild.

The Holy Grail trail is also the basis for another CD-Rom computer game, *Azrael's Tear — Search for the Holy Grail*. This is a clunky point-and-click adventure set in a 3-D environment in which you play a futuristic thief charged with finding the cup in a vast underground temple. You start by advancing perhaps too slowly along dank corridors in search of clues.

Despite some fine sound effects, the game layout is run-of-the-mill and a fiddle to master. Nor are the graphics especially clear, brown being the predominant colour of most of the corridors. It's a shame because if *Azrael's Tear* looked and behaved as good as it sounds, you could stay with it for hours at a time. As it is, the chances of mouse-clicking your way to the bitter end are slim.

"And now for something completely different." Catch-phrases from the *Monty Python's Flying Circus* television series (1969-74),

Other nonsense games include the self-explanatory *Catch the Cow* and *Burn the Witch*.

Computer games based on Python adventures have until now had a chequered history. It seemed at one point that anyone could buy up Python material and proceed unchecked with any spin-off which came to mind, good or bad. Even 7th Level was guilty of this a year or two ago with an earlier spin-off — its *Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time* which was, to my mind, a waste of time and a complete waste of money.

However, this Grail game has had much more thought put into it. Eric Idle serves as the title's executive producer and other members of the Python team contributing voices for the CD-Rom translation include Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam — but, sadly, not John Cleese.

The game looks and feels exceptionally good. The animations, sound effects and music score all combine to produce well-honed computer entertainment. Some of the games are simple, some even

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

ACROSS: 1 Stone-slinging device (8)
2 Gulp (4)
3 Landed country house (5)
4 Exam certificate (7)
5 Part of circumference (3)
6 Malicious (letter) (6-3)
7 Comfort (in distress) (6)
8 Cart; heap over tomb (6)
9 Pasternak novel (2,7)
10 Edgar Allan —, US writer (3)
11 Nunnery (7)
12 Impression, picture (5)
13 Long, hard journey (4)
14 Hamburgers etc. (4,4)

DOWN: 1 Range; surround (7)
2 Keynote; fortifying drink (5)
3 Objectivity; vista (11)
4 — van Beethoven (6)
5 Barefaced lie (7)
6 Wood texture; tiny unit of weight (5)
7 Leading character (11)
8 Diamond shape; pastille (7)
9 Today and tomorrow... say (7)
10 Meditation phrase (6)
11 Coin; its loss Shylock lamented (5)
12 Instrument, also plays forte (5)

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3371: A Puzzle With A Catch by Phi

Each segment I-XII contains one unclued thematic entry (rim to centre), one entry entered normally (rim to centre) and one entered in jumbled form. The jumbled entry has a normal clue while the normal entry's clue contains a feature not required for solving, though it should not be entirely disregarded. Solvers will need to determine the location of entries within their segment by means of the circular lights, which are normally clued.

The letter in the fourth ring is common to all words in a segment. These letters, read clockwise, yield a two-word phrase, which should lead to solvers augmenting the grid. Two thematic entries are in *Collins' Chambers*.

Segments (all answers of 6 letters)

- I Lamented stake being driven into overturned sear? On the contrary
- II A lot of money's invested in filthy stuff resembling body fluids
- III Hold witness about nothing
- IV Bats batting with it will get single (not duck)
- V Walk by, ignoring latest in elegant gear
- VI Hungs flags round castle with King in residence
- VII Take care of senior officer's plot
- VIII Boldly with skill? Not bold
- IX Rake the yard - not luxuriant growth
- X India face the attack, snatching run not stopped by English
- XI Star GI breaking into part of church
- XII Church's plight with non-Conformist caretaker? Sorceress has inscribed Latin magic figure
- XIII Shopper without a lot of room grabbing hip of hair comb
- XIV What's mystically sage about a name - such as this one?
- XV Glaswegian under a snow taken to hospital
- XVI Patriotic women's group, one out of money in the US, to become gloomy
- XVII Sufferer from disease (cold) makes mess when stifling only one-third of sneeze
- XVIII Water-basin having almost nothing for tank
- XIX Being with naughty male close up
- XX Letters - setter's overlooking one when on the beer

- XII Coloured, once, by being caught by college servant with only bottom covered
- Stomach upset, see (though not making noises)

- Circular
- 1 American author's written about North Carolina's obnoxious people (6)
- 2 Inert type preferring Latin to Old Testament philosopher (5)
- 3 Kina, a drug source that's repressed in a challenging way (5)
- 4 Billy, in two Mozart works, kept back a certain flair (5)
- 5 Mild shock when swallowing fat (8)
- 6 Vessels having soldiers on board again (7)
- 7 Endless weight 1 target, keeping back enormous appetite (7)
- 8 One coming out to meet the Spanish is best in old battle (7)
- 9 Energy, note, running short at an earlier time (6)
- 10 Bribes brought into being during suspicious behaviour (7)
- 11 This, in itself, could explain Yard's air (8)
- 12 Blast half knocked over Scot (4)
- 13 Record's measures (5)
- 14 Straights into new people, getting us to come round (6)
- 15 Aquatic organisms - number found in most of well, lake and drainage channel (7)
- 16 Discoloured swellings most of all coming from an intention to hurt people (4)
- 17 Butter's hard to be defined by goat initially (4)
- 18 To which one could attach leash, if not hydrant? (4)
- 19 Navigation system has this port located on side of Lake (4)
- 20 Edinburgh's former hall not entirely deserted (4)
- 21 Rulers? John, say, and the present one being contained in that (7)
- 22 A year's lease is available in part of Scotland (8)
- 23 Hurries to area of turmoil with canister for riot police (9, two words)
- 24 Weapon fuel North America used round China? (6)
- 25 Trap overturned by record hedgehog-like creature (6)

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3371

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3371, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, August 29.

SOLUTION TO NO 862

ACROSS: 2 Colander 6 Tundra 8 Ground 9 Faintly 10 Cadre
12 Hammerbeam 16 Tongue-tied 18 Rebel 20 Stays in 21 Starve
22 Native 25 Oil pain

DOWN: 1 Runaway 2 Cauldron 3 Africa 4 Druid 5 Redden
7 Dynamite 11 Amethyst 13 Exultant 14 Relieve 15 Fresco
17 Olivia 19 Brawl

Solution to No 3368: Around the Squares by Duck

Solutions to clues: a stream-*n* b sensibler c renegades d Odelsing e deadlines f substrate g Berliners h reseedling i untranges j glutamine k straw poll l repairing m rostering n thrasonic o catatonia p compliant q Scorpaena r canonizes s tactility t circinate u unisonant v starstone w randiness x rotavated y transpire

1 entries 2 austerling 3 Plotinus 4 termed 5 atrapp 6 Serena 7 coart
8 meased 9 sorn 10 sedge

Quotation: "... meandering with a crazy motion" (*Kubla Khan*, Coleridge)

The winner is N. Maxwell of Prestwich, Manchester. The two runners-up are J. Harries of Bromley, Kent and G. Rogers of Llandudno, Gwynedd.

The winner will receive The Cambridge Encyclopedia, the most up-to-date and comprehensive encyclopaedia available, with more than 36,000 entries. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume and The Cambridge Guide to Literature, covering all the leading writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive The Cambridge Guide to Literature.

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